



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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9:00 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Unity Worship

Issue: #160

September 1, 2018

Message from Pastor Carol



Where will you be September 9th??

We'd love to Welcome you Back as we gear up for fall. Children's choirs start rehearsals (see Music Ministries column), children will be promoted to their new classes, teachers will receive a blessing in worship, Covenant Cafe lunches for children and youth will resume in the youth room following worship, and UM Youth Fellowship will start at noon.

9:00 am - Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am - Worship

11:45 am - Covenant Café for children & youth, Choir Parent Meeting

12:00 pm - Cherub Choir, Music Machine, UMYF

12:40 pm - Children's Chimes

I will also begin a new sermon series *Be the Change: Risky Business*.

9/9 Self

9/16 Relationship

9/23 Family of Creation

9/30 Faith Community

10/7 World Community

Blessings, Pastor Carol



Children's Formation



3rd Grade Bibles Sunday, September 16

Children entering 3rd Grade will receive their own Bibles during worship.

Music Ministries



Children's Choirs Sunday Schedule Starting SEPTEMBER 9

LUNCH - 11:30 ish
(immediately following the Sunday service)

CHERUB CHOIR - Noon
MUSIC MACHINE - Noon
CHILDREN'S CHIMES -
12:40 - 1 pm

CHERUB CHOIR - 3 years old - Kindergarten
(Heather Mincieli)

MUSIC MACHINE - 1st-5th grade
(Melanie Luce)

CHILDREN'S CHIMES -
3rd - 5th grade (Leanne Seabright)

**PARENT'S MEETING for
all Children's Choirs
Sunday, September 9
in Room 207 following
worship.**

Welcome Back!



Join us September 9th
for *Welcome Back Sunday!*

L.I.F.T. (Ladies In Fellowship Together)

**Thursday, September 13
6:30 pm**

We will have our monthly LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) meeting on Thursday, September 13 at 6:30 pm at the home of Erin Shepardson. Go to [L.I.F.T.](#) for more information. Bring a snack or covered dish to share.



We will enjoy food, fellowship and a short devotional. If you do not have time to prepare a dish, please join us anyway - we want you with us! Come join us for this time of fellowship!

Parents' Night Out



**Friday, September 21
6 to 9 pm
in the Covenant Center**

Ages Infant - 5th Grade.
Reservations are required by Wednesday, September 19!
Reserve a place for your child at hcumc.org. You may drop off and pick up children anytime during the designated hours. \$10 per child;

\$25 max per same family.

Acolytes Needed

Do you know a 3rd through 5th grader who is interested in being an acolyte?

Please contact Beth Mundell
bethmundell@verizon.net.





Wesleyan Choir

Rehearsals have started for the season. We meet Wednesdays from 7:30 - 9 pm. If you enjoy singing, we welcome you! You can visit at any time.



Handbells!

Covenant Carillons are back at practice starting the first Wednesday after Labor Day! Wednesday, September 5th 6:30-7:15 pm. WE ARE IN NEED of a few people to fill spots.

If interested, please let Leanne Seabright know. LSeabright@hcumc.org



Praise Team

If you have experience singing or playing an instrument and are interested in being a part of the Praise Team, please contact Leanne Seabright LSeabright@hcumc.org

SALT Program



Seek, Accept, Love, Transform

Looking for a meaningful volunteer opportunity? Give a child the gift of reading! Only 20 minutes a week gives a child the boost he or she needs to succeed. Holy Covenant's SALT (Seek, Accept, Love, Transform) program pairs adult mentors with

children in our local elementary schools. If you are interested in participating this school year, please sign up in the narthex, or contact Andrea Allen andrea@aallen.me.

Annual Dinner & Auction

Saturday, October 6

Holy Covenant's annual dinner and auction is scheduled for Saturday, October 6. All proceeds from the event go to our church's support of the local and global ministries of the United Methodist Church. Here are the basics for the event:



- Dinner is being lovingly prepared by your Auction Committee and it will be awesome!! You may arrive any time between 5:45 and 6:30- come early and then go to the silent auction or vice versa! To help defray the cost of the meal, we are charging \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Please note that you must RSVP if you plan to attend the dinner.
- The silent auction opens at 5:30 and closes at 7 when we start the live auction. We will re-open the silent auction for a few minutes after the close of the live auction to allow all a chance to update their bids.
- There will be a raffle for a Stay-Cation. This has been a very popular item in the past and selling a ticket or ten is easy! Raffle tickets will be available for pick up to sell or to purchase after each service beginning in early September.

How you can help:

- Donate items: All of the items auctioned are made or obtained by members of Holy Covenant - no used items please!

Advocates for Justice & Peace



Sunday, September 23 "Who is Our Neighbor? Homeless Youth" 9 am in the sanctuary

McKinney-Vento: What is it? We have children and youth in our community who are classified as homeless. The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal program that provides a partial safety net for these children.

On September 23rd the Advocates will present an educational opportunity for the church to learn this Act and how we can support homeless youth. This program will be during the Sunday School hour and will be in the sanctuary. Please come to learn.

ECDP Update



ECDP Getting our CRAY-ON! For 40 Years!

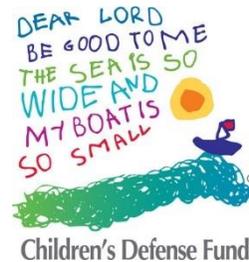
ECDP is celebrating 40

- Buy and sell raffle tickets: Please help us sell raffle tickets! Please pick up tickets in September before and after each service to sell to friends, family, neighbors and co-workers.
- Invite friends to the event: A great dinner, a fun auction, good stuff to buy, and a great cause- what more could you ask for? The more people at the auction, the more fun and the more we raise. Please invite others to join the fun!

To get even more information about the dinner and auction, keep an eye on the church website- there will be a piece entitled "Auction for Dummies" that is a primer for those of you who haven't been to the event. You will also be able to RSVP to dinner and complete donated item forms there.

You can also like us on Facebook (Holy Covenant United Methodist Church) and follow us on Twitter (@hcumc) - we will be updating both with auction ideas as well as donated items as they are received.

Children's Sabbath



Sunday, October 14

"Realizing Dr. King's Vision for *Every* Child: LIVES OF HOPE, NOT DESPAIR"

Our focus at Holy Covenant UMC is Child Poverty.

From Our Ad Council Chair

Greetings friends, as we enter into September and the 4th Quarter of 2018, do any of you feel like this calendar year just started? How did the Summer season slip by so fast? I had so much to do and had planned for a robust period of work, play and accomplishment. So many meetings, appointments, entertainment venues, movies, Facebook, Twitter, social media, must "do" this, must "have" that.....but wait. Slow down, seriously, slow, slow down. Heck, pull over to the side of the Life highway for a minute.



So a little insight, I personally believe there are God moments happening for each one of us every hour of every day. The

years of teaching children to love God, themselves, and others. For forty years, we've been starting children on their educational journeys. What a privilege to be a part of so many precious lives. What an honor to be included in the beginning of so many great stories. We want to document what our little alumni have done as they've grown up. If you have a child who is an ECDP alumnus or know a family with an ECDP alumnus, please send us a picture of them with their name, the years they came to ECDP, and what they're doing now. We are assembling a picture wall in the preschool to celebrate the achievements of ECDP's students, and we want to include as many as we can.

ECDP has great teachers and great substitute teachers, and we're always looking for more! We always need more substitute teachers. If you have experience working with young children, a talent for managing chaos, and a lot of energy, you might be just what we need! ECDP will hold a Substitute Orientation & Training on Thursday, September 13th, starting at 9:15 am in Room 202. This meeting lasts a little over an hour. I will give you all the information you need for subbing in our preschool, and you can let me know

simple fact is, we are so "plugged in" and in the world's hyper drive we are unaware, and therefore unappreciative of God's gifts to us. Gifts, brothers and sisters, that He gives to us on an hourly/daily basis, without fail and without choice. You, nor I have to do anything to earn these gifts, it is through God's grace that we are given them. Yet, are we moving so fast that we miss some of the most important and divine experiences because our focus is on moving, getting, running, etc. So how does one reflect on and try to capture and be in the moment for these experiences? I would offer this.

I recently took a much needed vacation from business. After an arduous, grueling period of months numerous personal and business partners were explicitly telling me I needed to "take some time". These folks began to be overtly passionate in saying "No Scott, you really DO need to take some time off". Then it happened, the Commander & Chief, Supreme entity, Controller of All that is Scott weighed in again, more like AGAIN.....and declared, "I'm not asking you to take a vacation, I am telling you that you are going on vacation with me"; to which I replied "of course I am honey". My wife's initials are KGB, need I say more? Who in their right mind would battle the KGB? Doesn't the KGB make people disappear?

So off we go to San Antonio, one of my favorite places in the universe. I am totally unplugged, without cell phone, laptop, television (KGB mandated), marooned if you will. And it was FANTASTIC. After two days of sleep, rest and reading I re-emerged to the land of reality. Seriously people, two days of being on the hardback book program, reading and listening to the quiet. God was speaking to me here. Slow down.....I felt like He was saying "I've been here", you Scott have been too busy for me! Now, I truly believe I have matured over the years and recognize God moments daily, then how had I gotten so off course? I believe I learned this, that I had dulled my experience because of my lack of work/life/quiet time balance.

What I submit to you my friends is this, take time to be in the quiet....the silence....to be unplugged. God has an intimate relationship with you, you just may not make time for it. Plan some time, on purpose time, to put all of your electronics, televisions, iPads, etc...somewhere else. Then, be still. Breathe. Think about those times the power goes out (imagine you don't have batteries) and the roads/streets have been frozen over for three days.....that kind of QUIET! When you reach that level of solitude and quiet, then revel in the experience, because God is there and you are not distracted.

Keep a list of God moments for a week: a pet, the sky, hearing "thank you", the smell of rain, the quiet.....you certainly realize how wealthy we all are. God's Peace to you.

"light yourself on fire with passion and people will come from miles to watch you burn" J.W.

if you're ready to give it a go! We'd love to have you be a part of our ministry!

Beth McClure,
ECDP Director

Food Pantry Need:



**Soups & Instant
Mashed Potatoes**

Staff

Rev. Carol Sparks
csparks@hcumc.org
Senior Pastor

Rev. Bill Mauldin
bmauldin@hcumc.org
Associate Pastor
of Family Ministries and
Discipleship

Rev. Jim Guest
jguest@hcumc.org
Associate Pastor of
Pastoral Care

Leanne Seabright
lseabright@hcumc.org
Worship and Music
Minister

Beth McClure
bmccclure@hcumc.org
ECDP Director

Christine Perry
cperry@hcumc.org
Bookkeeper

Elise Webb Odell

From Our Lay Leader



During the 2018 Vacation Bible School at HCUMC, Rodney Stewart talked to the children about "God Sightings". Rodney reminded us all that God Sightings are happening all around us every day. We only need to slow down and open our eyes to see them.

Last month, on a Saturday, my seven-year-old daughter Eliza knew that she and I were going to have some daddy/daughter time at home, just the two of us. Without me knowing, she set up several "stations" in her bedroom. The stations consisted of Connect 4, Chess, Trouble, a puzzle, her slime, and a ball. When she first presented this to me, I thought to myself, "I have too much to do. I need to get this done, get that done." Thankfully, I chose to spend that time with Eliza and soak up her youth and innocence.

We went through all the stations, slime more than once. Eliza loves her slime! We played and made up our own games with the ball. We even played hide & seek. Eliza even had cookies and candy as rewards for the winners of the games.

I couldn't have had a better day with this wonderful special person that God has added into my life. And I can't imagine what I was thinking when I considered doing my "to-do-list" instead of spending precious time going through all of Eliza's stations.

God Sightings are everywhere. Are you seeing them? Or are you too busy? Too distracted? Too focused on the wrong things? Open your eyes, your mind, your heart and see the God Sightings happening all around you. And then, go out and be someone's God Sighting.

"Some people walk in the rain, others just get wet." - Roger Miller

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ewebb@hcumc.org
Administrative Assistant

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Hinton family; the Powell family; the Fox family; the family of Jan Barnes; the family of Andy Lane; the Harrison family; Melanie Luce; Heather Hinton; Maliq Davis; Aiden Gamez; Brenda Anderson; Carlos Ponce; Susie Ponce; Barbara Burns; Dick Renfro; Hans Becker; Jan Reynolds; Jerry & Elizabeth Hunsaker; Randy Sutherland; Kelly Ellis; Tom Yull; Stephanie Flangin; Semyon & Ilana Narosov; Andrea Bergquist; and Jahon Pierce.

Our loved ones in the military

Levi Bayard, Hunter Blue, Kate Blue, KeNi Gaines, Zach Glass, Shane Mote, Jake Oliver, Antonio Ramirez, Ashton Rudolf and Diana Rudolf.

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We are welcoming and open to all people; black or white or brown, you are welcome here; rich or poor, young or old, you are welcome here, gay or straight, citizen or sojourner, you are welcome here.