



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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Sunday Morning Schedule

**9:00 am Sunday
School for all ages**

**10:30 am Unity
Worship**

Food Pantry Needs



Issue: #161

October 1, 2018

Message from Pastor Carol



Take a Risk!

Bob Michael shared on Sunday that he never thought he would be "doing" voter recruiting and registration but he was tired of complaining. So he took a risk and did something! Andrea Allen wanted kids to all have a chance to learn and feel valued. So she took a chance and expanded our reading and mentoring ministry to include Sheffield Elementary. Richard Knibbs had never been on a mission trip to repair homes and he certainly had not been a project sight manager, but he took a risk and did it! Ask any one of these three and each would humbly but enthusiastically respond, "It was worth it!"

"Changing the World" sounds like such an insurmountable feat and IT IS! Perhaps that is why God is in the business of transforming the whole world and we are not. Our business is to pay attention. What is happening or not happening that brings us worry, frustration or even grief? OUR response provides all we need to claim our part of the world to change. This is where the risk comes in! It takes courage to act without the assurance that our efforts will change a thing. Possibility is not born out of the fear of failure, but rather out of the willingness to take a chance. It is easy to slip into the "why bother" mindset and to justify doing nothing by looking only to what will not change. And guess what? Nothing will change. To change the whole world takes much; but, to bring change into the world does not. Let's take a risk and bring a little possibility into world!

Live big; Live Bigger,
Pastor Carol

**Communion Sunday,
October 7,
please bring pasta
sauce, mashed
potatoes, soups &
canned meats for the
Food Pantry.**

Children's Formation



Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 28 5 pm

Oct 28th Holy Covenant will hold a Trunk-or-Treat in our parking lot starting at 5pm. We will ask that those who wish to participate in offering the Trunk-or-Treat come at 4:30 to park and set up. At 5pm we will block off the parking lot access so family can safely walk around. We are planning on offering dinner with hotdogs, chips, and sodas. We will take a love offering to cover the food cost, we ask for \$2 per dinner. We will have some sort of contest for participants and there will be some family fun activities.

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:



- 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 are available to purchase at [Raffle Tickets](#).

How you can help:

- Donate items: All of the items auctioned are made or obtained by members of Holy Covenant - no used items please!
- Buy and sell raffle tickets: Please help us sell raffle tickets! Please pick up tickets 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!

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

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



Thursday, October 11 6:30 pm

We will have our monthly LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) meeting on Thursday, October 11 at 6:30 pm at the home of Sheli Erenberger. Go to

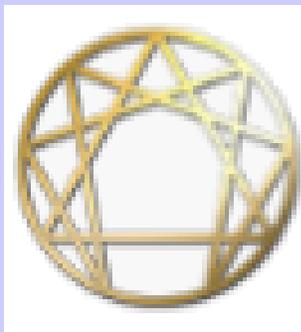
[L.I.F.T.](#) for more information. Bring a snack or covered dish to share.



Family Advent

There will be a family Advent event called "Cookies and Chrismosn" Sunday December 2 after worship. There will be a family take home event available for parents or care givers to do at home before the event available Nov 20th. This event will help families kick off the Advent season in preparation for Christmas and help children know and understand the Christian teaching and symbols of Christmas. There will be an online sign up starting November 4th.

Adult Formation



Enneagram

Oct 28th at 12:00 we will offer time for the congregation to engage in Enneagram work. This is a free event. In the past, we have covered how to discover our number and understand how our number operates. This is all good information, but the purpose of the Enneagram is not to simply be informational but also

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!

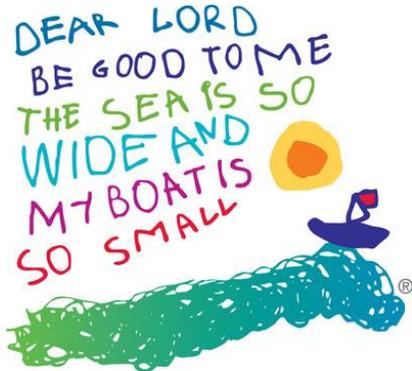
Children's Sabbath

Sunday, October 14

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

Our focus - Child Poverty

During our Sunday School hour is an option to attend a panel speaking about Child Poverty and how they are working to break the cycle of poverty. Kim Leonards from Bea's Kids will speak to us about the after-school program in the Carrollton area.



Children's Defense Fund

Sock & Underwear Drive



Holy Covenant has a relationship with Sheffield Relationship through our SALT program. Members of our congregation read with students for 20 minutes per week.

Education is a key to break the cycle of poverty.

We are collecting socks and underwear until **October 14th** for students of Sheffield Elementary to emphasize one of the needs of the students. The box is underneath the stairwell.

Parents' Night Out

Friday, October 19

6 to 9 pm

in the Covenant Center

Ages Infant - 5th Grade. Reservations are required by Wednesday, October 17! 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.



transformational. That will be our focus for this session: How to use the Enneagram for personal and spiritual transformation. We will be done at 1:30pm.

Music Ministries



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, December 9th our Wesleyan Choir, a string quartet and other instruments, will present "Advent Meditations and Carols" during our 10:30 am Unity Service.

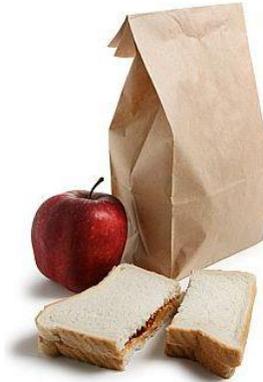
CROP Hunger Walk



Saturday, October 13

CROP Hunger Walk is Saturday, October 13th. Walkers raise awareness of hunger in our community and around the world, and raise funds to fight hunger. The Walk starts at Mill Valley Fellowship, 13545 Webb Chapel Rd., Farmers Branch (check-in 8am) and consists of a 2-mile route along the Rawhide Creek Park. Water will be available on the Walk route, and refreshments and family activities will

Feeding the Homeless



Holy Covenant is providing Breakfast at the Austin Street Shelter at 5:00 am on **Sunday, November 4**. We will provide breakfast for 400 men, women and children at the homeless shelter.

We will provide:

- 12 sandwiches (individually bagged)
- 12 pieces fruit
- 12 boiled eggs in shell in carton
- Cases of bottled water/ juice boxes
- Snack/granola bars

We will receive all donations on **Saturday, November 3** from 9am-noon in the HCUMC kitchen. All are welcome to travel with us to Austin Street Sunday morning at 5:15 am from the HCUMC kitchen. We will drive to Austin Street, set up and serve breakfast. We will also collect retail plastic bags for the residents to carry their food because all residents must leave the shelter at 7:00 am. For more information, contact Rick Davis 972-814-5325.

From Our Ad Council Chair

Greetings Friends, welcome to Q4! The last three months of the calendar and fiscal year; and it seems like we just took down our Christmas decorations, doesn't it? One of my personal "to do" tasks each January....sometimes February, is to put away all of my Mom's Christmas decorations into her attic. Friends, this is never a small chore due to the extensive collection of visuals, ornaments, multiple trees and other assorted Holiday cheer items. That very collection still awaits my put-away this year! Looks like I am ahead of the curve. It IS important to keep that Holiday Spirit year-round so therefore I have achieved that goal.



Two observations as we move into October as individuals, and as importantly, as a family/group. The first would be truly keeping that Holiday Spirit year round. Making the most important things just that, the most important, the priority. We are constantly blessed with the Good Lord throwing people in our path (when I first heard that term years ago I was taken aback, but it is for real) for us to assist, but many are the times these people are thrown in our path as a blessing to us. We most assuredly should be able to keep our Holiday Spirit with that mindset, right? We may feel the times

be available at the finish line on Mill Valley Fellowship grounds.

Holy Covenant members are invited to participate in the Walk itself, or alternatively, make a donation to one of Holy Covenant's walkers. 25% of the funds raised support the Food Pantry at Metrocrest Services; the remaining funds are used by Church World Service in their global hunger and poverty fighting programs in 25+ countries.

Please contact Rick Davis (972-814-5325) for more information. Donate to Holy Covenant's team at [CROP Walk](#)

Blood Drive



Sunday, October 14
9 am to 1 pm
in the Covenant Center
Save a life!

Staff

Rev. Carol Sparks
csparks@hcumc.org
Senior Pastor

are challenging, or the news is constantly negative.....but with our faith, it is our time to throw ourselves in the path of everyone else to shine our light. Choose your attitude. I would ask you to lean into it when the headwinds are challenging, others need our resolve.

Secondly, remember as we enter the Holiday Season to be mindful of where our gifts and focuses should truly be. There are many in need of our time, our lending ear and our financial support. My folks always taught me it was the Lord's money, I was here to make smart use of it. Brothers and Sisters, I say here is to being different during the 2018 Season and over-delivering to those in need. Get ahead of the curve!

Peace,

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

From Our Lay Leader



Change is in the air! You can feel the cool weather starting to trickle down from the north. Some leaves are even starting to turn yellow and fall from the trees. The changing of the seasons we can't change. What about those things we can change? What about those changes we need to make but

don't want to or are too afraid to?

I think about change a lot. How can I change "this", so I can be better at "that"? I'm going to read "that" book, so I can learn how to change "this". Regardless if I change anything at all, change is happening all around us every day.

One thing I've realized, at least about me embracing change, is that it's not always the "change" that makes me nervous or afraid. It's the vulnerability of change. Humans don't typically like being vulnerable. But often it's when we're vulnerable that we are the most open to change. When we try to evolve and change, we are completely exposed and vulnerable to failure. Nobody likes to fail but you can't move forward without failure and being vulnerable. *"Vulnerability is our most accurate measure of courage."* - Brene Brown

Let's all move forward and be vulnerable together and change into the people God wants us to be.

Let's:

- Step in the batter's box
- Break a yolk
- Smash a thumb
- Lift each other up

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- Listen
- Speak up
- Eat humble pie
- Wear a cast
- Be bold
- Cry a little or a lot
- Sit in the penalty box
- Step on toes
- Embarrass ourselves
- Fall down
- Get back up
- Ask for forgiveness
- Get comfortable being uncomfortable

Together we can change ourselves, our community and the world. And like HCUMC's handsome, brilliant and fearless Ad Council Chair Scott Boren always says, *"The only constant is change."*

"¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 3:13-14

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Sanchez family; Mary Harrison; Karen Guest; 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; Sara Price; and Michael Schroeder.

Our loved ones in the military

Levi Bayard, Hunter Blue,

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Kate Blue, KeNi Gaines,
Zach Glass, Jake Oliver,
Antonio Ramirez, Ashton
Rudolf and Diana Rudolf.



**where radical love welcomes all and
nourishes our community**



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.

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