



## Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

### In This Issue

#### HEADlines for Holy Covenant

Baptism

Chili Cook-Off

Feeding the Homeless

Food Pantry Needs

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

Parents' Night Out

ECDP is Ready!

From Our Lay Leader

Ad Council Update

### A Year in the Bible



**Haven't started reading yet? Got behind? No problem!**

**Jump in with Exodus!**

Chronological Readings:

Feb 1: Exodus 1:1-2:25

1 Chronicles 6:1-3

Exodus 3:1-4:17

Feb 2: Exodus 4:18-7:13

Feb 3: Exodus 7:14-9:35

Feb 4: Exodus 10:1-12:51

Feb 5: Exodus 13:1-15:27

Issue: #165

February 1, 2019

#### HEADlines for Holy Covenant

### By Keith L. Head, Intentional Interim Minister

A huge THANK YOU from Shirley and me for your warm welcome on our first Sunday Worship with you on January 27! Also, your lay leadership and Staff have just gone above and beyond my highest expectations to help me "hit the ground running" as your Intentional Interim Minister. What an amazing team you have in place to equip and coordinate the various and effective ministries of the Holy Covenant UMC congregation, along with the overall Mission "to change the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ!"



In last Sunday's worship during our Prayers of the People time, Pastor Carol Sparks' Letter to the Congregation about her six-week Sabbatical was read and she and her family were lifted in prayer. She mentioned that folks wanted to know what they could do for her and her family during this Sabbatical time. She wrote, "Keep praying and don't forget to laugh, sing and dance along the way. God did not ask us to be miserable while we healed but rather, intentional. Oh yeah and read your BIBLES!"

Well, her words pretty much summarize my hopes for what we'll be doing during our time together! We will certainly continue to support Pastor Carol through our prayers and living this joyful life of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ that has already been her witness among us! Another way we can support her is with that word, "intentional," as we not only maintain, but *intentionally* grow the ministries and missions of Holy Covenant UMC over these weeks. That way, when Pastor Carol returns on Ash Wednesday, March 6, we'll all be ready to "hit the ground running" with the sign of the cross on our foreheads!

If you missed last Sunday's worship and want to read Pastor Carol's letter, it is available in the Church Office.

As for Pastor Carol's admonition to "read your "BIBLES," I encourage

Feb 6: Exodus 16:1-19:25  
 Feb 7: Exodus 20:1-22:15  
 Feb 8: Exodus 22:16-24:18  
 Feb 9: Exodus 25:1-28:43  
 Feb 10: Exodus 29:1-31:18  
 Feb 11: Exodus 32:1-34:35  
 Feb 12: Exodus 35:1-36:38  
 Feb 13: Exodus 37:1-39:31  
 Feb 14: Exodus 39:32-40:38  
 Numbers 9:15-23  
 Feb 15: Numbers 7:1-89  
 Feb 16: Numbers 8:1-9:14  
 Leviticus 1:1-3:17  
 Feb 17: Leviticus 4:1-6:30  
 Feb 18: Leviticus 7:1-8:36  
 Feb 19: Leviticus 9:1-11:47  
 Feb 20: Leviticus 12:1-14:32  
 Feb 21: Leviticus 14:33-16:34  
 Feb 22: Leviticus 17:1-19:37  
 Feb 23: Leviticus 20:1-22:33  
 Feb 24: Leviticus 23:1-25:23  
 Feb 25: Leviticus 25:24-26:46  
 Feb 26: Leviticus 27:1-34  
 Numbers 1:1-54  
 Feb 27: Numbers 2:1-3:51  
 Feb 28: Numbers 4:1-5:31

### Blood Drive



you to continue or join the **2019: A Year in the Bible** challenge to read the whole Bible in chronological order by the end of the year. Our next Rally Day (when we all start again at the same point in the reading on the same day) is FEBRUARY 1 or Day 32! So, if you haven't started yet, or have fallen behind, we can all get back on track with the texts from Exodus 1:1 - 2:25; 1 Chronicles 6:1-3, and Exodus 3:1 - 4:17.

We are also offering Rendezvous Days (times to gather as a community to check in on how the reading is going) on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. So, we're calling it the Sanctuary Class! We'll be recapping the previous week's readings, as well as sharing our questions and our learning. Pastor Bill and I will facilitate the discussion, using some Bible resources and videos that will help you see the bigger picture surrounding your daily readings. Please come and join us next Sunday for a lively conversation!

**The One Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan** cards listing the dates and readings are available at the church or you can get the information about the readings by checking out these links:

1. Download the free Bible app by You Version. This link should take you to the group from Holy Covenant that are doing this reading together: [Invitation](#).
2. You can use the link above online as well. If you don't want to be connected to others you can just go to [bible.com](#). Go to plans and search The One Year Chronological Bible.
3. You can listen to The One Year Chronological Bible thought Audible.com at [Audiobook](#) or you can download the app and listen to it on your phone.
4. You can buy a The One Year Chronological Bible in book form through Amazon at [Amazon](#) or download it to your Kindle or E-Reader.
5. You can use any Bible you want and follow this print out that tells you what scriptures to read each day: [Reading Plan](#).

Finally, note that I will be weaving the scheduled readings into our Sunday morning worship messages. As we begin opening the Book of Exodus next week, our big word for Sunday, February 3, will be MOVEMENT. See you Sunday!



**Sunday, February 17  
8:30 am to 12:30 pm  
in the Covenant Center**

Save a life!

### Children's Formation



### Attention Parents of Current 3rd, 4th, & 5th Graders:

Your child can go to summer church camp at Camp Bridgeport this year. Holy Covenant will be attending C2 (the second children's camp of the summer) June 24th-28th. Registration begins Jan 9th at 9am. Camp slots can go fast depending on what camps the bigger churches decide to attend and can be full within a few days. Pastor Bill will attend C2, but it would be great to have more adults there that our children know, so please consider volunteering. It would be nice for our girls to have a female adult in their cabin. To sign up go to the Camp Bridgeport website [Bridgeport Camp](#) and enroll. You can reserve your spot with a \$50 deposit and pay before camp.

### Youth Formation



### Baptism



**Seraph Elianna Solomon  
was baptized January 20, 2019**

### Chili Cook-Off



**Saturday, February 2  
6 pm  
in the Covenant Center**

Bring your best chili or soup to enter the competition, and vote (with \$) for your favorites! *If you are entering the competition, please arrive at 5:30 pm to set up.* Proceeds will benefit Holy Covenant's People In Need Fund.

### Feeding the Homeless

**Donations collected February 2  
Breakfast served February 3**

Holy Covenant is serving breakfast this Sunday at the Austin Street Shelter. We will provide breakfast for 400 men, women and children at the homeless shelter.

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

*Austin Street is also currently collecting new and gently used sweaters.*



### Mid Winter

This year Holy Covenant youth will be going on a mid-winter retreat to Turner Falls, OK. We will leave on Friday night, March 29th. We will return Sunday afternoon on March 31st. Cost is \$75. We will be staying at the Deer Creek Lodge, youth will need to take bedding. The theme of our retreat will be whole-hearted living. Sign up online at [Mid-Winter](#).



### High School Camp

There is a high school camp for those in 9,10,11,12th grades July 1-5. Pastor Bill will not be attending but youth can still sign up to go if they wish. For those with the servant's heart, you may consider applying to work Children's SEEK Camp June 4-8th. Let Pastor Bill know if you are interested and he will get you more information.



### Mission Trip

All our middle and high-schoolers are encouraged to attend mission trip June 16th- 22nd to NE Oklahoma. We will stay in a lake cabin at the UM Boy's Ranch in Gore, OK.

We will receive all donations on **Saturday, February 2**, from **9:00 am to noon** in the HCUMC kitchen. All are welcome to travel with us to Austin Street Sunday morning, **February 3, at 5:15 am** from the HCUMC kitchen. We will drive to Austin Street, set up and serve breakfast. We are also collecting retail plastic bags for the residents to carry their food as all residents must leave the shelter at 7:00 am. For more information, contact Rick Davis 972-814-5325.

### Food Pantry Needs



### Communion Sunday, February 3

You are invited to bring canned meats and canned fruit on Communion Sunday.

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

**Thursday, February 14**  
**6:30 pm**

We will have our monthly LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) meeting on Thursday, February 14, at 6:30 pm at the home of Linda Thompson. Go to [hcumc.org](http://hcumc.org) 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, February 15**  
**6 to 9 pm**  
**in the Covenant Center**

Ages Infant - 5th Grade. Reservations are required by Wednesday, February 13!

Reserve a place for your child at [hcumc.org](http://hcumc.org). You may drop off and pick up children anytime during the designated hours. Cost is \$10 per child; \$25 max per family.

### ECDP is Ready!

### Come Get Your CRAY-on!

2019 has already been a very eventful year already for Holy Covenant ECDP, but we're still thriving! The students and faculty performed brilliantly for our first non-drill Lock-Out. As required by the state of



We will be volunteering at the ranch. My hope is to have a middle school and a high school work crew. I hope to arrange the high school crew to do some work with the Cookson Center, part of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. The cost is \$150. We will float the Illinois River one day. It is flat water, but fun. Sign up at [Youth Mission Trip](#).



**Attention Parents of Current 6th, 7th & 8th Graders:**

Your youth will be going to JH2 (the second junior high camp of the summer) July 15-19th. Registration begins Jan 9th at 9am. As you know, camp slots can go fast depending on what camps the bigger churches decide to attend and can be full within a few days. Pastor Bill will attend JH2, but it would be great to have more adults there that our youth know so please consider volunteering. It would be nice for our girls to have a female adult in their cabin. To sign up go to the Camp Bridgeport website [Bridgeport Camp](#) and enroll. You can reserve your spot with a \$50 deposit and pay before camp.

Texas Health and Human Services Department, ECDP has a written protocol for both Lock-Outs and Lock-Downs that we practice 4 times per year. Our students think they're playing Hide and Seek with Director Beth McClure, but we're practicing our Lock-Down. When she opens the door and peaks in, the students will yell out, "We won!" They're not scared. They're ready, and they showed it earlier this semester when we were put to the test. We passed with flying colors. We can be proud of our ECDP faculty and especially our ECDP students!

That is just one way, ECDP is equipping our students with confidence and skills. There are so many other, happier ways that we prepare our students for what lies ahead of them in school and life. Our preschool is committed to play as the main vehicle of learning for our little ones. We protect outdoor play time and classroom play. We are excited to provide students with rich learning opportunities. Just take a peek at the pumpkin and lettuce they're growing in our new garden. All academic learning is hidden in classroom centers. Ask the teacher about any play center in the classroom and she can tell you what skills students are practicing there. Watching the students in their centers, it's easy to see that they are having fun with the task at hand and with their friends.

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins February 5, 2019. ECDP will hold its Registration Celebration that day. Families who register that Tuesday will be entered in a drawing for one of 2 prizes: a Crayola gift basket or 2 tickets to the Crayola Experience. Each registration is an entry. For 40 years, ECDP has been getting our CRAY-on! We would love for your family to join us and get your CRAY-on too!

If you have any questions about the ECDP program or would like to schedule a tour, please contact Beth McClure at 972-492-1371.

### From Our Lay Leader



**By Aaron Hunsaker**

Fill your day with challenges. Fill your week with challenges. Fill your month with challenges. Fill your year with challenges. Some of you will read this and say to yourselves, "What!?!?!? Life is challenging enough! Why do I need to make it more challenging?" I recently read that if you tell someone about your goals or dreams and they don't respond with some sort of

shock, then you aren't setting high enough goals.

Like many of you, I am challenging myself to read the bible in one year. Is that intimidating? Sure. Is it the hardest challenge I've ever been a part of? No. Have I missed some days and had to play catch up? Of course I have. I love it though. I love knowing that at some point during the day, someone at HCUMC is taking the time to be with God and listen. This brings me hope that I can stay on top of my daily

## Worship



### Children's Sunday

During our Sunday service on February 10, let's all join together to celebrate and honor the children of Holy Covenant UMC. The children will lead us in worship through song, readings and providing handchime music.



### Busy:

### **Reconnecting with an Unhurried God**

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6. Lent is usually a time when we think about "giving something up", but what if we thought less about "giving up" and more about "making room?" In this Lent series, we will find out what it really costs to be so busy. Let us reconnect to an unhurried God! We will spend time discerning what lifestyle change we might try on for Lent that would help us engage in slowing down or "de-cluttering" some aspect of our lives.

Some examples of a "time-out" chair for adults:)

reading knowing that I am not doing this alone. This brings me confidence knowing that so many people are focused on this one thing. This brings me joy knowing that this challenge is placing wisdom in our minds that we can use as a tool as we move forward as a church.

Remember that whatever goal you set, it won't be easy to accomplish. Some days you will move forward. Some days you will move backwards. Some days you won't move any direction. Getting to the end is never easy or pretty. There will be more ugly days than pretty days but continuing to fight to reach your goals will make your life better and also the lives of the people around you.

Besides the day to day challenges that we face, what challenges have you intentionally placed in front of you? What challenges do you want to put in front of you?

The next time you see me, tell me how you are challenging yourself. By doing so, you will have one more person on your team ready to cheer for you all the way to the finish line. Remember this...a smooth sea never made a skilled sailor. So, get off the lake and go find your rough sea.

*"For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isaiah 41:13*

## Ad Council Update

### By Scott Boren

Greetings everyone, I trust January of 2019 has treated you well. There certainly have been numerous developments, chances to serve and opportunities to witness in the opening month of calendar 2019. Much planning and preparation went into what HCUMC's Administrative Council team would do in the month of January and almost immediately we were called to "audible" into contingency planning and course correction to serve in the moment.



That being said, I wanted to take some time and thank those Holy Covenant brothers and sisters who are moving "off" committee work for this year. I thank you for your service, the time you have committed and the energy you have brought to this body of Christ and the enrichment you added to all those that this church touches. Also, a Great State of Texas WELCOME to those who have joined the Administrative Council team; your service will be needed and your insight will drive change to ensure HCUMC is relative to the community, the nation and the world. Finally, from a recognition, thanks and genuine appreciation standpoint I want to lift up Amanda Bowes, Elliott Beard and Aaron Hunsaker. With Amanda and Elliott being SPPR Co-Chairpersons, and Elliott as well serving as a primary leader on Holy Covenant's Safety Team, these two teammates have been unbelievably busy in the first 31 days of the year. Thank you for the partnership and the immense amount of time you have spent in service of Holy Covenant, the Staff and the congregation/community



### Sunday Morning Schedule

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

**10:30 am Unity  
Worship**

### Staff

**Rev. Carol Sparks**

[csparks@hcumc.org](mailto:csparks@hcumc.org)

Senior Pastor

**Rev. Keith L. Head**

[okhead@mac.com](mailto:okhead@mac.com)

Interim Pastor

**Rev. Bill Mauldin**

[bmauldin@hcumc.org](mailto:bmauldin@hcumc.org)

Associate Pastor  
of Family Ministries and  
Discipleship

**Rev. Jim Guest**

[jguest@hcumc.org](mailto:jguest@hcumc.org)

Associate Pastor of  
Pastoral Care

**Leanne Seabright**

[lseabright@hcumc.org](mailto:lseabright@hcumc.org)

Worship and Music  
Minister

as a whole. It is not lost on me how crucial you two have been in moving this church forward. Aaron, our Lay Leader, thank you as well. Your keen perspective, calming nerve and faith have been bedrock in challenging times. I am honored to serve with all three of you as laity leaders and it truly seems we have been inseparable in these early days.

In our Ad Council meeting in January, which was unique in every aspect, President Roosevelt's "The Man in the Arena" passage was referenced. Provided the challenges of our current state, the observation of "who strives valiantly...while daring greatly" proves timeless. In the spirit of that observation, I believe the stage, while unexpected, is unusually set for Holy Covenant's Ad Council this year. There is no greater calling than the one to be in service of your fellow man. From the first offerings of the passage "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, who face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming...." we can effort how valuable our service is both for the immediate, but more importantly, the future.

I thank each of you for taking the time to read this update. I thank individually and collectively all those who serve on the committees and staff supporting this special church. I thank the Ad Council team themselves, for both how they have already served and what lies in store for us. The lessons we learn, the challenges we overcome and the effort with which we lean into the work will be invaluable to exponentially more than our limited few. Your time in the arena is priceless.

The time is now "to change the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ!"

The Ad Council team will be committed to keeping everyone informed, treating all feedback with compassion and genuine review, as well as communicating with candor.

Matthew 5:9

Peace,

Scott

**Beth McClure**[bmccclure@hcumc.org](mailto:bmccclure@hcumc.org)

ECDP Director

**Christine Perry**[cperry@hcumc.org](mailto:cperry@hcumc.org)

Bookkeeper

**Elise Webb Odell**[ewebb@hcumc.org](mailto:ewebb@hcumc.org)

Administrative Assistant



**meeting Christ in our local community  
to serve our children and youth**

### In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The McAnally family; the McCutchen family; Pastor Carol and family; Jim McKee; Bob Michael; Carol Lasley; Helma Gentry and the Holbert family; the Fox family; Jane Kelley; Charles Holley; Donna McAnally; Mary Harrison; Brenda Anderson; Carlos Ponce; Jojo Sain; Susie Ponce; Viktor Parker; Barbara Burns; Jan Reynolds; Kayla Soto-Nava; Linesha Maicera; Dianne Taylor; and Semyon & Ilana Narosov.

### Our Loved Ones in the Military

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



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.

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, 972-492-2432,  
1901 E. Peters Colony Road, Carrollton, TX 75007