



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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A Year in the Bible



Haven't started reading yet? Got behind? No problem! Join us in Judges!

Chronological Readings:

Apr 1 Judges 3:31-6:40

Apr 2 Judges 7:1-9:21

Apr 3 Judges 9:22-11:28

Apr 4 Judges 11:29-15:20

Apr 5 Judges 16:1-18:31

Apr 6 Judges 19:1-21:25

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April 1, 2019

A Message from Pastor Carol



Wanting More Jesus

We live in a complex and fast-paced world driven by popular opinion and challenged by political correctness. We fight fervently for our convictions and are prepared to demand our voices be heard. We are energized by the breaking of glass ceilings as well as the downfall of the corrupt. But I ask, where is our determination to have more Jesus? Yes, Jesus.

We are Christians which means that our holiest of days is before us - Easter. We gather in churches across the country to proclaim, "He is risen!" But has he? Do you see evidence of his church committed to radical and generous love?

Every time someone says, "I believe in God, but I do not believe in organized religion", it is a commentary on the ineffectiveness of Jesus' followers of today. American Christianity has failed.

I believe Jesus wants us to love others so much that we would go to any extreme to help them. He wants us to be known for giving - of our time, our money, and our abilities - to alleviate suffering in the world. I know that Christ's Church exists so people can see **God in action**.

The old joke for pastors is, "I have to agree that I believe in God but I do not believe in organized religion because I have yet to see a religion that is organized." Though this joke may draw a smile or at least a head nod, we cannot settle for an unorganized, disinterested, and complacent church. This requires every one of us to move into action. We must serve on ministry teams, work within our infrastructure for decision making, trust our leaders and volunteer for the seemingly unimportant tasks of the church.

By being organized as a church, we will have the capacity and enthusiasm to love radically and the motivation to alleviate suffering.

Apr 7 Ruth 1:1-4:12
 Apr 8 Ruth 4:13-22,
 1 Chronicles 2:9-55,
 1 Chronicles 4:1-23,
 1 Samuel 1:1-8
 Apr 9 1 Samuel 1:9-4:11
 Apr 10 1 Samuel 4:12-
 8:22
 Apr 11 1 Samuel 9:1-
 12:25
 Apr 12 1 Chronicles
 9:35-39, 1 Samuel 13:1-
 5, 1 Samuel 13:19-23, 1
 Samuel 13:6-18, 1
 Samuel 14:1-52
 Apr 13 1 Samuel 15:1-
 17:31
 Apr 14 1 Samuel 17:32-
 19:17, Psalm 59,
 1 Samuel 19:18-24
 Apr 15 1 Samuel 20:1-
 21:15, Psalm 34
 Apr 16 1 Samuel 22:1-2,
 Psalm 57, Psalm 142,
 1 Chronicles 12:8-18, 1
 Samuel 22:3-23,
 Psalm 52, 1 Samuel
 23:1-12
 Apr 17 1 Samuel 23:13-
 29, Psalm 54, 1 Samuel
 24:1-25:44
 Apr 18 1 Samuel 26:1-
 27:7, 1 Chronicles 12:1-
 7, 1 Samuel 27:8-29:11,
 1 Chronicles 12:19,
 Psalm 56
 Apr 19 1 Samuel 30:1-
 31, 1 Chronicles 12:20-
 22, 1 Samuel 31:1-13,
 1 Chronicles 10:1-14,
 1 Chronicles 9:40-44,
 2 Samuel 4:4, 2 Samuel
 1:1-27
 Apr 20 2 Samuel 2:1-
 3:5, 1 Chronicles 3:1-4,
 2 Samuel 23:8-17,
 1 Chronicles 11:10-19,
 2 Samuel 23:18-39,
 1 Chronicles 11:20-47
 Apr 21 2 Samuel 3:6-
 4:12
 Apr 22 2 Samuel 5:1-3,
 1 Chronicles 11:1-3,
 1 Chronicles 12:23-40,

So yes, I want more Jesus in our world. I want to lead our church to become a driven, challenging, fervent, energized and generous people of action so when we proclaim, "He is risen!" the people looking to Christians for an active God will reply, " He is risen, indeed!"

Happy Easter,
 Pastor Carol

New Members



**Travis and Becky Williams
 joined March 24, 2019**

2 Samuel 5:17-25,
 1 Chronicles 14:8-17,
 2 Samuel 5:6-10,
 1 Chronicles 11:4-9,
 1 Chronicles 3:4, 2
 Samuel 5:13, 2 Samuel
 5:4-5, 2 Samuel 5:11-
 12, 1 Chronicles 14:1-2,
 1 Chronicles 13:1-5,
 2 Samuel 6:1-11,
 1 Chronicles 13:6-14
 Apr 23 2 Samuel 6:12,
 1 Chronicles 15:1-28,
 2 Samuel 6:12-16,
 1 Chronicles 15:29,
 2 Samuel 6:17-19,
 1 Chronicles 16:1-43,
 2 Samuel 6:19-23
 Apr 24 2 Samuel 7:1-17,
 1 Chronicles 17:1-15, 2
 Samuel 7:18-29,
 1 Chronicles 17:16-27,
 2 Samuel 8:1-14,
 1 Chronicles 18:1-
 13, Psalm 60
 Apr 25 2 Samuel 8:15-
 18, 1 Chronicles 18:14-
 17, 1 Chronicles 6:16-30,
 1 Chronicles 6:50-53, 1
 Chronicles 6:31-48, 2
 Samuel 9:1-10:19, 1
 Chronicles 19:1-19
 Apr 26 1 Chronicles 20:1,
 2 Samuel 11:1-12:14,
 Psalm 51, 2 Samuel
 12:15-25, 2 Samuel
 5:14-16,
 1 Chronicles 14:3-7,
 1 Chronicles 3:5-9
 Apr 27 2 Samuel 12:26-
 31, 1 Chronicles 20:2-3,
 2 Samuel 13:1-14:33
 Apr 28 2 Samuel 15:1-
 17:14
 Apr 29 2 Samuel 17:15-
 29, Psalm 3, Psalm 63,
 2 Samuel 18:1-19:30
 Apr 30 2 Samuel 19:31-
 20:26, Psalm 7, 2
 Samuel 21:1-22, 1
 Chronicles 20:4-8



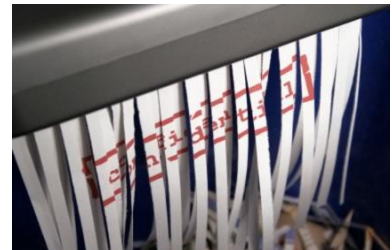
Debbi David
 joined March 31, 2019

Secure Document Shredding

Saturday, April 6
10 am to 1:30 pm

Sponsored by Holy Covenant's
 Green Team. Open to the public.
 Protect your identity
 while supporting Holy Covenant.
 Watch your documents being
 shredded on site with the utmost

security. \$5 per copy paper sized box. Invite your friends and
 family to bring their sensitive documents to be shredded.
 Shredding will be done by Secure On Site Shredding Inc.
 Visit www.secureonsiteshredding.com for more information about
 the company.



Blood Drive



Blood Drive
Sunday, April 28
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. 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.

Food Pantry Needs



Communion Sunday, April 7

You are invited to bring canned meats, soups and canned fruit during communion. There will be bins available at the platform for your donations.

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

Thursday, April 11
6:30 pm

We will have our monthly LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) meeting on Thursday, April 11, at 6:30 pm at the home of Colleen Evans. 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, April 12
6 to 9 pm
in the Covenant Center

Ages Infant - 5th Grade. Reservations are required by Wednesday, April 10! Reserve a place for your child at [hcumc.org](#). You may drop off and pick up children anytime during the designated hours. Cost is \$10 per child; \$25 max per family.

Palm to Passion Event



Youth Formation



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 at 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 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](#).

Community Labyrinth Walk

Sunday, April 14
6:00 pm

The Labyrinth Team is busy refurbishing the labyrinth. Join us and see the results! Childcare provided.



Maundy Thursday Worship



Good Friday Worship





**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.

Music Notes



**Sunday, May 12
Mother's Day**

We have some special treats on Mother's Day. The Children's Choirs will be sing and we will also have The Encore Brass quintet. Our very own

Easter Worship



Easter Egg Hunt



**Sunday, April 21
9:00 am**

HC Family Campout

**Turner Falls State Park
April 26-28**

Holy Covenant is going camping! We are having a church camp-out at Turner Falls State Park in Oklahoma April 26-28. We have some spots reserved but can get more if there is a lot of interest. We have filled all the shelters we reserved, but there is still room for tents. The cost to tent is \$12.50. There is a \$5 park fee each day for each person, kids under 5 free. Check in is at 4pm, check out is 12pm. So if your family wanted to come out Saturday, you could come and hang out with those who went on Friday and check in at 4pm. It will be lots of fun, we will sort out all the details. If you're interested, contact Rev. Bill Mauldin bmauldin@hcumc.org.



Efrain Sain is a member of this group.

ECDP Update



We are still accepting preschool registrations. If you hear people asking about preschools, you can tell them about the awesome preschool your church runs! Learning is just one of the fun things we do at ECDP! If you have any questions about the ECDP program or would like to schedule a tour, please contact Beth McClure at 972-492-1371.

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 am Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Unity Worship

Staff

Rev. Carol Sparks
csparks@hcumc.org
 Senior Pastor

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

Leanne Seabright
lseabright@hcumc.org
 Worship and Music Minister

Gretchen Church - HC Accompanist



Farewell Celebration Sunday, April 28 following worship

We have truly enjoyed our time with Gretchen Church serving as our church accompanist. She and her husband now have an opportunity to return to Illinois where they moved from and where their family are all located. Gretchen has also enjoyed her time at Holy Covenant but is happy to be returning. She will also be able to return to the positions she held in Illinois.

We are very happy for Gretchen, but sad to see her go. Gretchen's last Sunday will be April 28. We will have a farewell celebration for her directly following the service on that day.

Service Project

Serving Our Neighbors

Do you know someone in our area who needs help with a home project? Maybe painting? Installing a ceiling fan? Building a wheelchair ramp? Yard work? Please contact Rev. Bill Mauldin bmauldin@hcumc.org with details.



From Our Lay Leader



By Aaron Hunsaker

Resistance. What is resistance? Resistance can be a lot of things but today I'm going to talk about this kind of resistance, "*n. A force that tends to oppose or retard motion.*" Steven Pressfield wrote a book titled "The War of Art". The first part of his book is dedicated to resistance.

Pressfield says that resistance is:

- *Invisible*
- *Internal*
- *Insidious*
- *Implacable*
- *Impersonal*
- *Infallible*
- *Universal*

And that resistance:

- *Never sleeps*
- *Plays for keeps*
- *Is fueled by fear*
- *Only opposes in one direction*

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ECDP Director

Christine Perrycperry@hcumc.org

Financial Administrator

Elise Webb Odellewebb@hcumc.org

Administrative Assistant

- *Most powerful at the finish line*
- *Recruits allies*

Who are some of the "allies" of resistance?

- People (even good people)
- Procrastination
- Weather
- Cell phones / apps / social media
- Time (too much or too little)
- Injuries (minor or major)
- Alcoholism
-and the list can go on and on.....

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Rodney Stewart and family; the Coleman/McCutchen family; Sheila Lunsford; Shelly Martinez; Pat Underhill; Helma Gentry; Jim and Movalynn McKee; Randy Sutherland; Rebecca Eaton; Donna McAnally; Mary Harrison; Brenda Anderson; Jojo Sain; Barbara Burns; Noah Potit; and Semyon & Ilana Narosov.

How do we beat resistance? We can't. No matter what we're doing, what we're working on, no matter how good we are, resistance shows up. Every time. All day. Every day.

How do we combat resistance (knowing that we can't ever destroy it)? We work hard. We get back up. We dust off. We work hard. We wipe away the tears. We pray hard. We let others pick us up. We pick others up. We work hard. We fight resistance together. We believe in ourselves. We believe in each other. We repeat Philippians 4:13, over and over and over. We work hard. Together we can keep resistance at bay.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

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.



Holy Covenant
united methodist

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



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.