



## Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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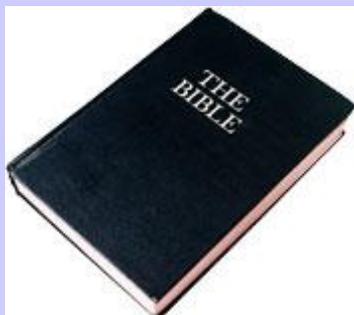
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### A Year in the Bible



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

**Join us in the Psalms!**

Chronological Readings:

**July 1** 2 Chronicles 29:3-

**Issue: #170**

**July 2, 2019**

### A Message from Pastor Carol



It is hard to believe it has been four months since the United Methodist Church's General Conference vote to reject a change in the language in the Book of Discipline regarding same sex orientation, ordination of a person named as LGBTQ and ordained clergy's ability to officiate same sex orientation weddings. At the end of February, many of us were caught off guard by this vote and became much more intentional about making our voices heard in this UM debate. Holy Covenant was no different.

Within three weeks, our Advocates for Justice and Peace brought a proposal to our Ad Council for consideration to begin the work of a church-wide conversation on how to respond as a body to these UMC developments. The proposal read:

*Advocates for Justice and Peace proposes that Holy Covenant's Administrative Council support marriage equality by allowing same sex marriages to be performed and recognized in our sanctuary.*

At the same time that our Advocates' team was preparing for action, we were holding three town hall meetings and open forums to help each of us understand the legislation, options of response and potential outcomes for our denomination. We then held a two session "Holy Conversation" so we could sit around tables and talk with one another about our thoughts, feelings and hopes for HCUMC.

Our plan was to move into a church-wide vote on the proposal brought before our congregation during a called Church Conference in May. As we worked our process of discernment, we became aware of the growing edge our conference and leadership were facing during this time as well. Each week brought a new development or proposed

31:21  
**July 2** Proverbs 25:1-29:27  
**July 3** Proverbs 30:1-31:31  
**July 4** Psalm 42-46  
**July 5** Psalm 47-49, Psalm 84, Psalm 85, Psalm 87  
**July 6** Psalm 1-2, Psalm 10, Psalm 33, Psalm 71, Psalm 91  
**July 7** Psalm 92-97  
**July 8** Psalm 98-100, Psalm 102, Psalm 104  
**July 9** Psalm 105-106  
**July 10** Psalm 107, Psalm 111-114  
**July 11** Psalm 115-118  
**July 12** Psalm 119  
**July 13** Psalm 120-121, Psalm 123, Psalm 125-126  
**July 14** Psalm 128-130, Psalm 123, Psalm 134-135  
**July 15** Psalm 136, Psalm 146-150  
**July 16** Isaiah 18:1-23:18  
**July 17** Isaiah 24:1-27:13, Isaiah 29:1-24  
**July 18** Isaiah 30:1-33:24  
**July 19** Isaiah 34:1-35:10  
**July 20** Micah 6:1-7:20, 2 Chronicles 32:1-8, 2 Kings 18:13-18, Isaiah 36:1-3, 2 Kings 18:19-37, Isaiah 36:4-22  
**July 21** 2 Kings 19:1-19, Isaiah 37:1-20, 2 Chronicles 32:9-19, 2 Kings 19:20-37, Isaiah 37:21-38, 2 Chronicles 32:20-23  
**July 22** 2 Kings 20:1-11, Isaiah 38:1-8, 2 Chronicles 32:24-31, Isaiah 38:9-22, 2 Kings 20:12-19, Isaiah 39:1-8  
**July 23** Isaiah 40:1-44:5  
**July 24** Isaiah 44:6-

action by the North Texas Conference which has challenged us as a local congregation to respond to the changing landscape of our common work.

During this process of discernment, we have learned much from one another. We have shared and listened, prayed and meditated, researched and evaluated, reflected and clarified. At times the work has felt long, exhausting and confusing but we have come to a new way of thinking about our corporate response. As a result, we would like to meet for one more Holy Conversation on July 28 to write together an amended proposal of response for HCUMC to go to a vote for all of our church--members or guests--August 11 through 20.

Please come and help us write a proposal that gives voice to all of our thoughts and hopes for HC's declaration and action about our denomination's views on the LGBTQ community and marriage equality. My hope and prayer is always for HCUMC to be a blessing for all. This is our chance to work together to make a way for all of our brothers and sisters.

Pastor Carol

### Holy Conversation

#### Sunday, July 28 following worship

We will meet in the Covenant Center for a pizza lunch and round-table discussion. We will work together to craft a proposal to be voted on in August.

The Advocates for Justice and Peace will provide pizza and donations will be appreciated.



### Congratulations!



**Welcome to the newest addition to the Holy Covenant family!**

**Everest Forrest Powell was born Saturday, June 22.**

*Congratulations to Kammie and William, Etta and Liam!*

48:11

**July 25** Isaiah 48:12-52:12**July 26** Isaiah 52:13-57:21**July 27** 58:1-63:14**July 28** Isaiah 63:15-66:24, 2 Kings 20:20-21, 2 Chronicles 32:32-33**July 29** 2 Kings 21:1-9, 2 Chronicles 33:1-9, 2 Kings 21:10-17, 2 Chronicles 33:10-19, 2

Kings 21:18, 2 Chronicles 33:20, 2 Kings 21:19-26, 2 Chronicles 33:21-25, 2 Kings 22:1-2, 2

Chronicles 34:1-7, Jeremiah 1:1-2:22

**July 30** Jeremiah 2:23-5:19**July 31** Jeremiah 5:20-6:30, 2 Kings 22:3-20, 2 Chronicles 34:8-28

### Food Pantry Needs



### Communion Sunday, July 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.

## Unity Family Dinner & Game Night

**Friday, July 26****6 to 9 pm****in the Covenant Center**

- Taco Bar.
- We will have a love offering basket for any donations guests wish to give for dinner.
- 45th Anniversary T-shirt contest. Enter a design for Holy Covenant's upcoming anniversary!



Contact [holycovenantunity@gmail.com](mailto:holycovenantunity@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Parents' Night Out

**Saturday, July 27****5 to 9 pm****in the Covenant Center**

Ages Infant - 5th Grade.  
Reservations are required by Wednesday, July 24!

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.

## Sack Summer Hunger Program

**Saturdays through August 3  
9 am to Noon**

During the school year, many of the children in our community benefit from the free/reduced lunch program which provides them with

breakfast and lunch for free or at a reduced cost. However, when school is out for the summer, the program is not available. We partner with Metrocrest (Social Services) to bridge this gap with the Sack Summer Hunger program. The program provides breakfast, lunch and snacks for school-aged children throughout the summer. The families receive a sack of food for each school-aged child in their household. Each Saturday during the summer, they can either pick up the bags from the church or have them delivered to their homes. Volunteers are needed to help make this program successful.



*There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex for delivery drivers, distribution at church, and to help pick up the food from*

## Children's Formation



### Vacation Bible School: *Roar!* July 7 – July 11 5:30 to 8:30 pm

Life is wild. God is good. This epic adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar!, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. We'll meet together and share a light meal at 5:30 pm each night. Then, everyone's adventure will begin. Our preschooler VBS will end at 7:30 pm and the elementary aged children will be done at 8:30 pm. Register your child [here](#).

## Adult Formation



### New Member Class July 21 - August 18 Sundays at 9:00 am Room 202

Did you recently join HCUMC? Thinking about joining? Just wanting to learn more about Holy Covenant or the UM church? Join Ted Ditty for

*Metrocrest*. The biggest need right now is the delivery drivers and produce pick-up from Metrocrest. You do not have to commit to do every Saturday. You just sign up for the Saturdays that you are available. Please help us to continue our mission to serve the kids in our community. If you have questions, please contact Ashley Norris [norrisfam2015@yahoo.com](mailto:norrisfam2015@yahoo.com).

## Feeding the Homeless



Holy Covenant is providing breakfast at the Austin Street Shelter **at 6:00 am on Sunday, August 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 food donations on **Saturday, August 3 from 9 am-noon** in the HCUMC kitchen. All are welcome to travel with us to Austin Street on 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.

## Anniversary Song for Holy Covenant

The lyrics have been written for our commissioned song and here is a taste:

*VERSE 1: Creator, we belong to you,  
and you dwell within our hearts.  
Though the road be rough, we will  
follow you with the strength your grace  
imparts.*

*Though we be brought high, though we be brought low,  
though we journey far from home,  
let us always seek to grow in love, no matter where we roam.*

*REFRAIN: Now let us reach out with loving hands to accept,  
affirm, embrace every child of God throughout the world and  
shower them with grace.*

*And let us reach out with grateful hearts and praise our God  
above through our acts of light and justice as we warm the  
world with love.*

**The cost will be \$500 in total. If you feel you would like**



this short-term class.

### Music Notes



#### Summer Singers

Summer Singers is for anyone, especially for people who are not able to make the commitment during the regular season and would like to just sing once, twice or a few times in the choir for a service.

*Rehearsal in Choir Room: 10 AM for the 10:30 service.*

*Ages: High School and Older*

**July 7th** - *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

**July 14th** - *Come, Rejoice in God* (as Prelude/in a round)

**July 21st** - *Shall We Gather At the River*

### 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. Bill Mauldin**  
[bmauldin@hcumc.org](mailto:bmauldin@hcumc.org)

**to contribute, please indicate on the memo line of a check in the offertory plate OR write "Anniversary Song" in the giving section online.**

**Any amount is appreciated - \$5, \$10, \$15 or more.**

### Message from Your Ad Council Chair



Brothers and Sisters, greetings!

Welcome to July and all that lies in store for the month of fireworks, watermelon and cookouts. We as an Ad Council Team and as HCUMC's congregation have reached mid-year. As we move into the second half of 2019, I believe it is important to look in the rearview mirror to where we have been. Determining where we have been, and agreeing on where we are at is pivotal to us charting the move

forward.

Or is it?

The first six months of 2019 have looked nothing like what we planned as we closed out 2018. The first 90 days were unique in that the entirety of our HCUMC staff was not available. As we moved into the second quarter, our HCUMC staff was once again whole, yet we as a global United Methodist Church were just emerging from St. Louis and all the "work" from that. In essence, the first half of 2019 has been uncharted waters.....ground that has never been covered.....we were tasked with assessing how to move forward based on being in a foreign environment with nothing being familiar, there has been uncertainty, there have been challenges in bushel baskets, there have been headwinds. It has been rocky, turbulent and not a necessarily easy trek. It has been as if we were in an area that we had never been in, and oh yeah, in total darkness. Challenging to say the least!

As Isaiah 42:16 teaches us "I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them."

My friends, we have in fact been guided, we just perhaps did not slow down long enough to be still to realize it. God is Great!

Welcome to the Second Half.  
 Peace,  
 Scott

Associate Pastor  
of Family Ministries and  
Discipleship

**Leanne Seabright**  
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Worship and Music  
Minister

**Beth McClure**  
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**Christine Perry**  
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Financial Administrator

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

### In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The family of Donna McAnally; the family of Brenda Anderson; Branda Mauldin; Dotty Costello; Sharon Harris; Sheila Lunsford; Mary Harrison; Carol Jones; Randy Sutherland; Allison Herrick; Jan Reynolds; and Jojo Sain.

### 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.

## Grieving?

In the U.S., 8 million people suffered through the death of someone in their immediate family last year. There were 800,000 new widows and widowers; and 400,000 people under 25 suffered from the death of a loved one.



Mortality rates for adults in their 40s and 50s in the past two decades have risen dramatically making it more likely that younger children will experience the death of a parent, or a classmate's parent.

Grief is our reaction to a loss; its our way of healing.

If you or someone you know is grieving, know that you're not alone. The following website has been designed to help those in grief: [www.thegriefcomfort.com](http://www.thegriefcomfort.com). You'll find helpful links for Grief Support, self-care tips and more.

**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.

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