



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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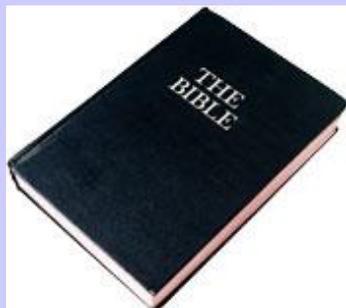
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**Haven't started reading
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Issue: #171

August 1, 2019

A Message from Pastor Carol



Summer is drawing to a close and for many of us the first day of school is unusually early this year. My calendar is filling up with to-do lists, school supplies to buy, kids' activities and events, church fall ramp up, and, and, and...

What would happen if each of us took one event, to-do, activity, or plan off of our overloaded "plates" and used that time to reflect and connect to our better selves? The self that remembers what is truly important. The self that embraces drawing in a deep breath. The self that longs for a quiet center to awaken within our soul.

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

It is time - time for our spirits to know peace and our lives to be calm. Let's find our Better Lives together. God will lead the way...are you willing to trust and follow?

Pastor Carol

Join us in Nahum and Habakkuk!

Chronological Readings:

August 1 2 Kings 23:1-20, 2 Chronicles 34:29-33, 2 Kings 23:21-28, 2 Chronicles 35:1-19, Nahum 1:1-3:19

August 2 Habakkuk 1:1-3:19, Zephaniah 1:1-2:7

August 3 Zephaniah 2:8-3:20, 2 Chronicles 35:20-27, 2 Kings 23:29-30, Jeremiah 47:1-48:47

August 4 2 Chronicles 36:1-4, 2 Kings 23:31-37, 2 Chronicles 36:5, Jeremiah 22:1-23, Jeremiah 26:1-24, 2 Kings 24:1-4, Jeremiah 25:1-14

August 5 Jeremiah 25:15-38, Jeremiah 36:1-32, Jeremiah 45:1-46:28

August 6 Jeremiah 19:1-20:18, Daniel 1:1-21

August 7 Daniel 2:1-3:30, Jeremiah 7:1-8:3

August 8 Jeremiah 8:4-11:23

August 9 Jeremiah 12:1-15:21

August 10 Jeremiah 16:1-18:23, Jeremiah 35:1-19

August 11 Jeremiah 49:1-33, 2 Kings 24:5-7, 2 Chronicles 36:6-8, 2 Kings 24:8-9, 2 Chronicles 36:9, Jeremiah 22:24-23:32

August 12 Jeremiah 23:33-24:10, Jeremiah 29:1-31:14

August 13 Jeremiah 31:15-40, Jeremiah 49:34-51:14

August 14 Jeremiah 51:15-58, 2 Chronicles 36:10, 2 Kings 24:10-17, 1 Chronicles 3:10-16, 2 Chronicles 36:11-14, Jeremiah 52:1-3, 2 Kings 24:18-20, Jeremiah 37:1-

Baptisms



Henry Cinto Baldwin and James Cleto Baldwin were baptized July 21, 2019

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.

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August 15 Jeremiah 37:11-38:28, Ezekiel 1:1-3:15

August 16 Ezekiel 3:16-4:17, Jeremiah 27:1-28:17, Jeremiah 51:59-64

August 17 Ezekiel 5:1-9:11

August 18 Ezekiel 10:1-13:23

August 19 Ezekiel 14:1-16:63

August 20 Ezekiel 17:1-19:14

August 21 Ezekiel 20:1-22:16

August 22 Ezekiel 22:17-23:49, 2 Kings 24:20-25:2, Jeremiah 52:3-5, Jeremiah 39:1, Ezekiel 24:1-14

August 23 Ezekiel 24:15-25:17, Jeremiah 34:1-22, Jeremiah 21:1-4, Ezekiel 29:1-16, Ezekiel 30:20-31:18

August 24 Jeremiah 32:1-33:26, Ezekiel 26:1-14

August 25 Ezekiel 26:15-28:26, 2 Kings 25:3-7, Jeremiah 52:6-11, Jeremiah 39:2-10

August 26 Jeremiah 39:11-18, Jeremiah 40:1-6, 2 Kings 25:8-21, Jeremiah 52:12-27, 2 Chronicles 36:15-21, Lamentations 1:1-22

August 27 Lamentations 2:1-4:22

August 28 Lamentations 5:1-22, Obadiah 1:1-21, 2 Kings 25:22-26, Jeremiah 40:7-41:18

August 29 Jeremiah 42:1-44:30, Ezekiel 33:21-33

August 30 Ezekiel 34:1-36:38

August 31 Ezekiel 37:1-39:29, Ezekiel 32:1-16

Food Pantry Needs



Communion Sunday, August 4

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

Bishop Schnase to Speak at NTC Laity Event

Saturday, August 17
Aldersgate UMC
3926 Old Denton Road
Carrollton, TX

Bishop Robert Schnase of the Rio Texas Conference will be the featured speaker at the North Texas Conference's fifth annual conference laity event, Saturday, Aug. 17, at Aldersgate UMC in Carrollton.

The theme for this year's program, cosponsored by the Conference Committee on Lay Servant Ministries and the Board of Laity, is "Mission Possible: No Matter the Polity, our Mission is the Same." Bishop Schnase's presentations will focus on "Churches that Say Yes, and Churches that Say No" and "A Conversion of Imagination."

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to noon, with gathering and sign-in beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Prior to being assigned to the Rio Texas Conference, Bishop Schnase served as the bishop of the Missouri Conference from 2004 to 2016. Before being elected bishop, he served for 15 years as senior pastor of First UMC McAllen, a congregation that became widely known for its extensive mission and outreach, for reaching younger generations and bicultural ministry. He also served congregations in Harlingen and in Great Britain.

Bishop Schnase, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and Perkins School of Theology, also is the author of several bestselling books, including the newly revised

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations and *Just Say Yes, Unleashing People for Ministry*.

Deadline to [register](#) is Aug. 12.



Children's Formation



Promotion Sunday & Blessing of the Backpacks August 18

Children (high school and college also, if they want) can bring their backpacks to church to receive a blessing (they will also receive something to put on their backpack to have with them for the school year.

Adult Formation



New Class

On September 8th, Rev. Bill Mauldin will begin leading an Adult Confirmation class Sundays at 9 am in the Covenant Center.

Music Notes



Wesleyan Choir

T-Shirt Design Contest



45th Anniversary Commemorative Shirt

Are you an artist or do you just have ideas for our commemorative 45th anniversary t-shirt design contest? The design should be what Holy Covenant represents to you.

Prizes for the Children's category (ages K through 12 yrs old) will be a \$25 gift card and a t-shirt in your size. Prizes

for the Adult category (ages 13 and up) will be \$50 and a t-shirt in your size.

Entries must be submitted by 6 pm on Friday, August 23, 2019, should be no bigger than 8 1/2" x 11" and should be in black and white only. Judging will be done with \$. \$1=1 vote. Entries will be displayed for all to see and vote at the Dinner and Game Night on August 23. Show your love and support to Holy Covenant!

Dinner & Game Night

Friday, August 23

6 to 9 pm

in the Covenant Center

- Baked Potato 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 with any questions.



ECDP Update



The Early Childhood Development Program is excited to begin our school year on August 26, 2019. A lot of work gets done during the summer, but these halls are lonely without children laughing and singing and even running in them. If you haven't claimed a spot for your child in our preschool program, hurry in.

There is still some availability, and we want this to be your

Our adult choir will start the next season with the first rehearsal on Wednesday, August 21st! We will rehearse from 7-8:30 on Wednesday evenings until the Handbell Choir/Covenant Carillons starts rehearsals on Wed., September 11. If you enjoy singing, please give it a try. "If you can walk, you can dance. If you can talk, you can sing" Zimbabwe proverb



Covenant Carillons

First rehearsal for our handbell choir is on Wednesday, September 11 from 6:30-7:15 pm. Ringing handbells together creates fellowship and opens up another way to praise God!



HCUMC Accompanist

We are currently working with a company called Trekorda that supplies churches and schools with accompanists. We hope to find the right match through this company.

school home as well as your church home. Great things happen for children in our preschool program. Academic skills are learned and practiced through play every day. We are committed to teaching our students in a way that honors how God has created their minds and bodies. We know they need to move and talk, and we want them to. However, we will also help them grow their stamina in listening and focusing. Our goal is to help your children become excited about learning and being in school. Our mission is to teach children to love God, themselves and others. We can't wait to get started!

Sunday School Teachers Needed!

Children's Formation is recruiting fall Sunday school teachers for the PreK/K, 4/5, and youth classes as well as substitutes. If you are willing to teach or sub, please contact [Melanie Luce](#), Children's Formation chair, or [Erin Shepardson](#). The fall session will begin on Sept 8th.



If you are concerned about becoming disconnected from your regular Sunday school class, find a co-teacher that you can lead with and/or alternate Sundays.

HCUMC 45th Anniversary Song



We have had a choir anthem commissioned for Holy Covenant's 45th Anniversary which will be celebrated on Sunday, September 15.

The text of this anthem is a paraphrase of Wesley's Covenant prayer and from choir member comments on what Holy Covenant UMC means to them.

If you would like to donate any amount (\$5 or more) towards this and have a part in making this song for the anniversary, please indicate in the memo line of a check for Offertory or indicate online "Anniversary song".

Message from Your Lay Leader

Pulling Weeds

What seeds have you planted in your garden? What seeds have unexpectedly landed in your garden? What is currently growing in your garden? Sunflowers? Briars? Watermelons? Crab grass? What is



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

Beth McClure
bmccclure@hcumc.org
ECDP Director

Christine Perry
cperry@hcumc.org
Financial Administrator

Elise Webb Odell
ewebb@hcumc.org
Administrative Assistant

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Sharyn Yetman; Scott Schmidt; Bill Franklin; Carlos Ponce; Betty Laker; Branda Mauldin; Sharon Harris; Sheila Lunsford; Mary Harrison; Carol Jones; Tyler Ackerman; Linda Hinton; Dorliss Glass; Shelley and Paul Finckey; Randy Sutherland; Jan Reynolds; and Jojo Sain.

growing in your garden that you didn't plant? How did it get there? The wind, birds, you? Did you plant seeds in your garden that you wish you didn't plant? Did you allow someone else to plant something in your garden? Did they plant something good that will bear something desirable or did they plant something negative that will overtake your garden? Has God planted anything in your garden? Have you allowed God in your garden? Years ago, did you plant any seeds in your garden that are still growing? Are those plants bearing desirable fruit? If not, why don't you pull that plant out of the ground and make room for desirable seeds to be planted.

What have you planted in other people's gardens? Something worthy or something negative? Are you helping your neighbors in their gardens? Are you helping your neighbors pull their weeds?

Are you sharing the good fruit from your garden? Are you pulling the weeds and giving every opportunity for your good plants to flourish?

Plant seeds that inspire others. Plant seeds that lift others up. Plant seeds that make the world a better place but remember to pull the weeds.

"It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches." **Luke 13:19**

Aaron

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; it's 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. You'll find helpful links for Grief Support, self-care tips and more.

Our Loved Ones in the Military

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



**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.

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