



## Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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### A Year in the Bible



#### **How was your Year in the Bible?**

It is our hope that reading the Bible in chronological order began or renewed a personal discipline for you of reading scripture.

### Food Pantry Needs



Issue: #176

January 1, 2020

### A Message From Pastor Carol



#### Reflections Before Resolutions

At the beginning of every year we are quick to make new resolutions and anxious to forget the last year, looking forward to a fresh start. Setting goals is to be admired and is necessary for growth. However, taking time to reflect on what God has already done is just as important.

"Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things God does for me." Psalm 103:2

All of us at the drop of a dime can list at least 10 things we want to do differently, 10 things that didn't go as planned last year, or 10 new goals to help us to not repeat those same mistakes. But can you name 10 things the Lord did last year that kept you, provided for you, healed you, and delivered you?

Let us not forget all the good things God has done for us!

Not only do we want to remember what God has done for and with us, we need to document it. We need to write it down. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow! In times of stress or spiritual "dryness", looking back and recounting God's presence in our evolving life's story can bring confidence that God will show up again and again to build us up to cope with anything.

New Year resolutions are about meeting a goal or producing an outcome. Old year reflections are about crafting an invitation to grow in the gifts of God's presence through Christ - hope, peace, love, and joy. Before making a list of the things you want to change in 2020, consider spending time in prayer, fasting and reflecting on what God did so you can plan for what God will do.

### Communion Sunday, January 5

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

### Harvey's Kids



### January 11

The second Saturday of each month, Holy Covenant hosts special needs children and their siblings from 5 to 8 pm while their parents have a night out. This program is staffed by volunteers who feel led to share the love of Jesus with these children and their families. More volunteers are always welcome! Please contact [Stacy Phillips](#) for more information.

### Children Formation



### Covenant Kids Worship

Covenant Kids will return Sunday, January 12. Children ages 3 thru second grade are invited to participate in Covenant Kids, a worship program designed especially for

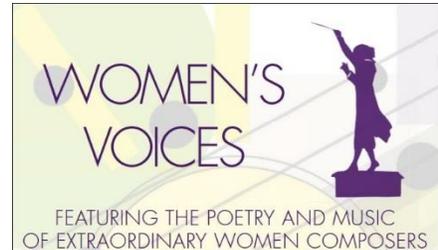
Blessings,  
Pastor Carol

### Free Concert

### Women's Voices Concert Friday, January 3 7 pm in the sanctuary

Everyone is welcome to the dress rehearsal of my upcoming concert. On behalf of the other performers I thank you in advance for allowing us to do it at the church. You will hear Gabrielle Gilliam and Kayla Nanto, two singers from The Dallas Opera's Education and Outreach program, for which I am the Music Director. We are performing music of many outstanding women composers as well as a few men! The concert is semi-staged by our Touring Manager Ryan Lescalleet.

-Mary Dibbern



### Ladies In Fellowship Together (LIFT)



### Thursday, January 9 6:30 pm

The monthly LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) meeting on Thursday, January 9, at 6:30 pm at the home of Donna Hatter. 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!

### Dinner & Game Night

### Friday, January 24 6 to 9 pm in the Covenant Center

Bring your family, friends and your favorite games! Dinner will be potluck. We will have a love offering basket for any donations guests wish to give toward dinner. Contact [holycovenantunity@gmail.com](mailto:holycovenantunity@gmail.com) with any questions.



this age group that takes place during the 10:30 worship service in the Covenant Center.

### 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

**Shaun Littlejohn-Taylor**  
Interim Choir Director

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

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

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

### In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Pat Underhill; Jim McKee; Charles Holley; Betty Morse; Carlos Ponce; Susie Ponce; Barbara Wright; Aletha Craven; Don Luce; Mary Harrison; Florence Richter; Peggy Castenada; Tyler Ackerman; Jan Reynolds; Jojo Sain; and Mike Gilbert.

### Austin Street



Holy Covenant is providing breakfast at the Austin Street Shelter **at 6:00 am on Sunday, February 2**. 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, February 1, 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.

### Spiritual Journeymen & Friends



### Getting in the Holiday Spirit at the Metrocrest Holiday Store

A group of Spiritual Journeymen volunteered at the Metrocrest Holiday Store as Santa's Helpers to assist clients with shopping for family gifts. It was a fun Saturday afternoon getting ourselves and the clients into the holiday spirit. Thanks to all SJ that helped including a couple wives and Donna Johnson with her friend Ginger.

## Our Loved Ones in the Military

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.

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