



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

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Worship with Us Online!



Join us Sunday at 10:30 am at the [Holy Covenant United Methodist Church Facebook page](#)

Pastor Carol, Helma, Mandy and Heather will lead us in worship.

You can also follow our online worship on our website or watch previous

Issue: #180

May 1, 2020

A Message from Pastor Carol



"Is this a sign from God?"

"Is this a consequence like that of the plagues and pestilence God brought down on the Egyptians?"

"How long must we suffer?"

On some level it makes sense that some are asking questions of God's role in our current situation. The bible has stories of plagues, pestilence, afflictions and more. Each of these resulting in widespread threat and death. Each of them as consequences of human behavior. Each of them wielded by God.

The last three months, our lives have been regulated by the declaration of the World Health Organization that no geographical place exist with a known immunity to this disease. In fact, our habitual lifestyles have been hijacked by this phenomenon called a pandemic. And, it should be. For our health as well as that of others, we need to adhere to the recommendations for reducing the chances of virus spreading. In doing so, this does not reduce the reality of our fear and weariness. This pandemic is not merely a medical challenge, it is a spiritual challenge as well.

Questions of God's power in such a global event is a natural response to the uncertainty of our future. "Where is this God the preacher is always proclaiming will never abandon us?" My answer, "Are you interested in discovering with me?"

It is tempting and even a little comforting to look heavenward and shake our fist. "Why are you doing this you big bully?" When we name the tyrant, we claim victimhood. Hence, the spiritual challenge.

We are not characters living in a Bible story that was written to show how a committed and loving God continually redeems

Online services you may have missed at hcumc.org.

Message from the Bishop



Bishop Michael McKee says it's best that UM congregations of the North Texas Conference not meet face-to-face through the end of May. No date is set to reopen in-person worship, but he is hopeful for June. See his full message below.

[Bishop's message](#)

Ladies In Fellowship Together



**Thursday, May 14
6:30 pm
over Zoom**

The monthly LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) meeting will take place online Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 pm. Contact Lois

a self-destructive people. We are not living examples of the resiliency of the suffering faithful. We ARE an empowered people of faith!

Our power comes as we open ourselves through prayer and meditation to the peace that surpasses all understanding. "Come Holy Spirit, fill me with Your peace," is our mantra.

Our power comes as we choose "how" to focus our attention. "What beauty do I observe now that I was unable to see?" Our power comes as we compassionately participate in our common humanity. "Where do I recognize need being more important than worthiness?"

So, where is this God I preach about? My answer, "Are you interested in discovering with me?"

Blessings, my friends,
Pastor Carol

Pastoral Care Number

469-487-8432

Please use this number to share any pastoral concerns.



Breakfast for Austin Street



**Saturday, May 2
9 am to Noon**

Holy Covenant is scheduled to again provide breakfast for the homeless at Austin Street Shelter. If you are able to donate food, please prepare

- 12 sandwiches
- 12 pieces of fruit
- 12 hard-boiled eggs

and deliver them to Holy Covenant on **Saturday, May 2nd between 9 am and noon**. *Bottled water and juice boxes are also appreciated.*

Please drive around to the north side of the church by the kitchen door where members of the Spiritual Journeymen will receive the donations from you. The food will be delivered Saturday afternoon and it will be served by the Austin Street staff on Sunday morning.

Eaton at loiseaton@verizon.net if you wish to join in. We will enjoy fellowship and a short devotional. Come and be a part of this time of fellowship!

Like Puzzles?



Are you and your family putting together jigsaw puzzles? Are you tired of doing the same ones? We have LOTS of new and gently used puzzles we would love to share with you! They are 500 piece and 1000 piece puzzles. We would be happy to drop one on your doorstep. We will even send you photos to choose the one you want.

Maybe you would like to trade yours in so someone else could enjoy them? If you are interested, contact Elise at ewebb@hcumc.org.

Plastic Bags Needed



Our mat makers are

Food Distribution

**Sunday, May 3
1pm to 3pm**

Holy Covenant will once again give out food to those in our area in need. There are still volunteer roles to fill on



Sunday during the actual distribution. To volunteer, please go to signupgenius.com and scroll to the bottom of the page to see what is still available.

How to Support Holy Covenant



April Giving:

Budgeted \$40,765

Month to Date \$29,952

In light of the current shelter-in-place orders, the leadership of Holy Covenant is taking measures to cut costs including canceling our landscaping, turning off sprinklers and thermostats, etc. Some costs cannot be cut, however, including basic operating expenses, our loan repayment and payroll. We ask that you continue to give to Holy Covenant during this time in whatever way works best for you. If you currently place your offering in the plate on Sundays, please consider mailing your check or giving online at hcumc.org. You may pay through your bank's online bill pay options, and even set up a recurring payment system.

Another option is to download the **GivePlus** app from the App Store or Google Play, choose Holy Covenant and you'll be able to make your contributions from your mobile device. The app is free to download and install.

You can also support Holy Covenant while you shop with Amazon. Simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. Select *Holy Covenant United Methodist Church* to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.

staying busy making sleep mats for the homeless. If you have plastic grocery bags you would like to contribute, please contact Lois Eaton at loiseaton@verizon.net or 214-862-8683. You may leave your bags by your front door and Lois will pick them up.

Update from ECDP

NOVID to COVID



The halls of ECDP are still empty, sadly empty. However, online learning continues. While it's not the best mode of preschool learning, we're doing our best with it. Because of Quarantine 2020, ECDP has extended our school year by one week. May 21st is the last day of preschool, and we're celebrating together - but 6 feet apart. ECDP will be having a "socially distanced" kindergarten graduation in the parking lot, followed by a drive through parade for the rest of our students.

The last time our

Holy Covenant Pantry Drive Thru

Many many hands, many many THANKS!!!

Sitting here in quarantine has been quite an interesting experience this past month. It got even more interesting when our Rev. Carol announced during her FaceBook Live sermon that she wanted to see cars



driving through our parking lot to receive bags of groceries. At least she did acknowledge that she hadn't spoken to Lois or me...(yet).

So, that following Monday the three of us were on a Zoom call with lots to discuss!

As the week progressed, we asked a group to call our existing clients: Sharyn Yetman, Mandie Long, Donna Hatter, Sharon Gonzales, Lois and myself. We made 44 calls and talked to several clients who said they would be there.

The word got out that we needed food and/or cash donations. Here are some of the donors (that I know of): Dotty Costello, Richard and Stephanie Knibbs, Joy and Randy Lasley, Sheila Hensler, Mandie and Ginny Long, Lana King, Jill Chenault,

Lois Eaton, Rob and Colleen Evans, Jim and Karen Guest, Linda Thompson, Sylvia Jones, Jill and Rusty Yull, Jeanne Selby, Lee Shore, Nikki Holmes, Beth Bartlett, Ashley Edwards, Kathy Amos, Missy Martin, Kathy Jones Beck, and Rosie Mauldin. At last count, \$2,000 has been donated and lots of canned food, too.



On Saturday, there were groups (in stages - you know, quarantine rules) assembling bags of groceries: The Teagues, The Carter/Mellor family, the Campbells, and the Mays/Blackburn. Linda Hill, Brandie Casey and Alex Timmons

students left the building, we were packing bikes into family vehicles and celebrating the hard work of our students in raising money for St. Jude's Hospital. So many good things have happened this year; we want to make sure those memories don't get lost in the stresses of Quarantine 2020. We'll end the year celebrating and hoping for some way to have summer camp. We're waiting anxiously for Bishop McKee's guidelines for summer activities.

ECDP wants to get back into the joys of children's ministry, as I know HCUMC wants as well. Looking forward to stretching how we operate so that we can meet the needs of our community in a safe way.

Beth McClure
ECDP Director

Pen Pals Requested for Atria Residents



also helped sort and distribute additional food items collected.

JP Mays and Lindsey Barnes helped to organize the helpers and tried to keep Carol organized in her thoughts and planning (those are the exact words from Carol). The assembled bags were lined up in the Narthex, as were donations of more canned goods, fresh fruits, vegetables, bread and cases of water.

Rick and Vicki Davis helped with the check-in and distribution of food on Sunday in the drive thru wearing their protective gear (you know - quarantining!). William and Kammie Powell helped direct traffic. Donna Johnson and Elise Odell helped as well.

Elliott Beard and the Safety Crew helped oversee this operation to keep everyone safe and within the guidelines of quarantining!

As I'm trying to account for all those that helped, please note there were at least 25+ people involved in just getting this idea off the ground and organized. Many, many more participated with donations, getting the word out, and offering guidance about our procedures and helping with the direction and management of this operation. One more thing I feel important to point out: All of these activities have one common denominator: Rev. Carol Sparks. She was literally in the middle of it all. And we are so grateful.

Lois and I have worked with/thru/around/beside Carol for the past few years to keep the HC Food Pantry operational, alive and well, and more community friendly. Carol says that JP planted the idea with her to



do this drive thru and we are very thankful for him too. Carol drove this whole process through her FaceBook, Holy Covenant's FaceBook recruiting our congregation's participation and with lots of texting! LOTS of texting. LOTS.

Many, many thanks to Carol and her family and ALL of those mentioned above. If anyone has been left out, believe me - we are thankful and grateful for your support too!

Ever had a pen pal? Now is the perfect time to embrace the charm of classic correspondence. Our friends at Atria Carrollton would love to hear from you! Choose one of these story-sharing prompts and share a bit about yourself in a card or letter: *What things from today will only be seen in a museum 100 years from now? What message in a bottle would you send to the year 2120? If you could be instantly transported to any place on earth, where would you go and why?*

Address your mail to the attention of "Atria Pen Pals" and they will match you with a resident.

Atria Carrollton
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Carrollton, TX 75010

Staff

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 ECDP Director

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 Financial Administrator

Elise Webb Odell
ewebb@hcumc.org
 Administrative Assistant

YOU - HOLY COVENANT - served over 65 families in one day. Just to share some perspective, our "normal" number of clients for the entire month is about 35.

THIS is what Holy Covenant is about. Community taking care of others, humbly and with grace. Keep the faith! We (Lois and I) thank God for each of you and your love for all of God's people.

-Sherry Dunn

Rob's Ramblings

"What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

Luke 3:10-11

Sometimes when you pause and look back you see patterns of activity that causes you to realize how Holy Covenant has impacted the community.

Last month Holy Covenant distributed food to families at our drive-in food distribution. We gave out groceries to 65-75 families. We have another drive-in distribution scheduled this month. When we were open our food pantry gave food to approximately 30-35 families each month. Our food pantry in one form or another has been a part of Holy Covenant since we began. Originally the food was donated as part of our monthly communion offering. Our children still remember shopping for the food requested on the list.

Decades ago the Journeymen connected with Austin Street Shelter to provide a meal each quarter to nearly 400 homeless persons. This continues with members of the congregation providing in hardboiled eggs, sandwiches, and fruit to each homeless person.

Holy Covenant participates in the annual CROP walk sponsored by Metrocrest Social Services and Church World Service to raise funds to fight hunger.

When Katrina struck New Orleans and victims were evacuated to Dallas, we cooked meals and delivered them to hotels in Addison.

Quarterly the Advocates provides an evening breakfast meal to the youth at Youth First. We have become "the Breakfast Ladies" to the kids there. Youth First is a gathering of LGBT youth and is sponsored by the Resource Center of Dallas.

You've heard of Sack Summer Hunger? This program provides

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

The Kiplinger family; the Parsons family; the Kees family; our friends at Atria Carrollton; Susan McAnally; Sharyn Yetman; Charles Holley; Betty Morse; Carlos Ponce; Susie Ponce; Mary Phillips; Barbara Taake; Shelley Fincke; Barbara Wright; Aletha Craven; Mary Harrison; Florence Richter; Tyler Ackerman; Jojo Sain; and those who have lost employment due the pandemic.

Our Loved Ones in the Military

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

meals to Carrollton children home during the summer. Holy Covenant and Metrocrest Social Services teamed with the North Texas Food Bank to pilot the original program focusing on Davis Elementary and Furneaux Elementary. Holy Covenant continues to be involved as the program evolves and grows.

Each Christmas the Journeymen provide a Christmas celebration meal to the children at the Methodist Children's Home. We have a member dressed as Santa and gifts are distributed.

For years Holy Covenant and other churches furnish pizza to the children of Christ's Foundry for their Wednesday gathering.

We are a holy covenant community of people reaching out to others in need to share, to help, to commune together and to live into the lessons of Jesus.

Peace
Rob Evans



**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.