



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

July 1, 2020 | Issue 182

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

You can also follow our online
worship on our website or
watch previous online services
you may have missed
at hcumc.org.

Staff

Rev. Cheryl Murphy
cmurphy@hcumc.org
Senior Pastor

Vera Kleinhenz
vkleinhenz@hcumc.org



Message from Pastor Cheryl

Holy Covenant Family!

Jeff and I are thrilled that we are joining the Holy Covenant family! We are moved in to the parsonage, still living in boxes and not sleeping there quite yet. My book boxes and furniture have arrived into a new location for the pastor's office at the church, but there is unpacking to do.

A big thank you to the Trustees and leadership for working long hours to prepare the parsonage, my office and our upgrade in live streaming cameras & technology from the sanctuary! Everything looks wonderful!

We are thrilled that the Holy Spirit has brought us to serve alongside all of you in the ministries of HCUMC and serving our neighbors in Carrollton. The legacy of this wonderful church is one we are honored to join!

We are joining you in an odd season that will continue to challenge us all! On a call earlier this week, the bishop has requested that the Metro District churches continue to live stream worship. We are hoping we can worship in person beginning in August. We are trying to plan for an outdoor worship experience in

Director of Music Programs

Beth McClure
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 ECDP Preschool Director

Christine Perry
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 Financial Administrator

Elise Webb Odell
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 Administrative Assistant

Prayer List

Carlos Ponce; Jesuita Ponce; our friends at Atria Carrollton; those who have lost employment; Charles Hinton; Janet Trumble; Barbara Wright; Aletha Craven; Mary Harrison; Florence Richter; Tyler Ackerman; Jojo Sain; and Mike Gilbert.

Our Loved Ones in the Military

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

July. Details to come.

I am delighted to join the current HCUMC staff and looking forward to my work beside our new Music Director, Vera Kleinhenz.

I am thrilled to become a part of a church that has continued to feed their neighbors during this season of isolation. The dedication of commitment to being the Hands and Feet of Christ even during times of crisis shows the heart of this church!

During my ordination interviews eight years ago, a pastor asked me for my guiding scripture. The core of my understanding of the scriptures is weaved throughout - but if I had to give you a few verses to summarize it, they would be found best written in 1 John 4:16, *God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.*

They say that preachers have 4 or 5 sermon themes, and that every week we preach one of them! (I hope not, but that is likely true!) This will be one of mine. I will often find a way of preaching about the power of God's love, a love that glows strongly within each of us, a love that needs to continue to define who we are in the world around us!

We are thrilled and feel as if we are coming home to serve with you at Holy Covenant. May this season be a blessing for all of us as we continue to be the Hands and Feet of Christ!

Christ's Blessings,
 Pastor Cheryl and Jeff

Message from SPPR

Hello, Dear Friends at Holy Covenant!



I am delighted to introduce to you our new Director of Music Programs, Vera Kleinhenz. Vera will join Pastor Cheryl Murphy to lead us into a new era for Holy Covenant United Methodist Church, beginning July 5, 2020.

Vera has been a church musician for over 35 years beginning at the Air Force chapels in California, Mississippi, Arizona, Guam and New Mexico, directing vocal choirs and handbell choirs as well. And she plays the organ! Not only that, Vera has worked with children and youth choirs and arranged music for them—and for adult choirs over these years in many churches.

During Vera's audition with the adult choir—virtually and with live singers—she demonstrated her skill at the keyboard and her ability to bring good sounds from us, with energy and a marvelous sense of humor. We need all that Vera brings so that we can journey in faith together, even in an uncertain time.

We are blessed to have Vera Kleinhenz and her husband Tim with us now as we seek ways to worship together and apart. We trust our Good and Glorious God to unite us in voice and spirit to proclaim the living presence of our Lord.

-Sharon Harris

Holy Covenant Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in full swing now with our Drive Through Food Distributions every two weeks. We are finally getting in a routine for ordering food, collecting donated food, unpacking food from the North Texas Food Bank, finding a place to store the food, packing boxes and bags for the Distribution, and keeping records of everything we do. It's a lot. Of course, we rely on a large group of volunteers (close to 40) to do all this work. If you would like to join our group of volunteers, please contact Lois Eaton at loiseaton@verizon.net or 214-862-8683.



In June, we fed 134 families or 496 individuals. That count is equivalent to 3,908 meals. We couldn't have done that without donations from our congregation.

Thank you so much for your support of the Food Pantry.

-Lois Eaton

How to Support Holy Covenant



June Giving: Budgeted \$34,365 Received to Date \$28,749

While we continue to worship online only, the leadership of Holy Covenant has taken measures to cut costs. Some costs, however, cannot be cut. We ask that you continue to give to Holy Covenant during this time in whatever way works best for you. If you usually 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 payment 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 easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. Select *Holy Covenant United Methodist Church* to be the recipient of donations from your eligible purchases. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.

Streaming Ministry

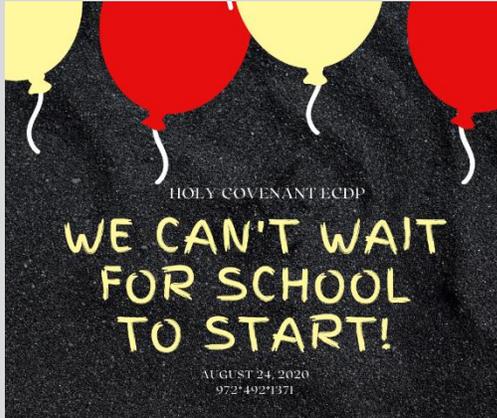
Volunteers Needed!

Would you like to help with our online worship? We are looking for volunteers for our worship streaming ministry. You will be asked to commit to 2 worship services per month to operate either a video switcher or a camera.

Experience welcome--but not required! There will be training. If interested, please contact Tim Shepardson at tim@shepardson.us.



ECDP is Freshening Up!



ECDP is working with Holy Covenant Trustees to get our classrooms freshened up. Enhanced sanitizing, increased cleaning and health screenings will be some new protocols for the preschool for 2020-2021. Working with Pastor Cheryl and Trustees, we are currently formulating policies and regimens with the guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Texas Health and Human Services recommendations. Our world will look different in the fall, but ECDP is committed to providing a careful and fear-free preschool experience for our students. We know that being physically present in the classroom is the best way for most children to learn. Even the American

Academy of Pediatrics is recommending that our children return to school. While there are families whose circumstances necessitate learning from home, we are striving to provide a clean and safe environment for those families who want to send their children to preschool and/or kindergarten in the fall. We can't wait to start school!

Rob's Ramblings

Sound-Filled Silence

“When we are invited to move from our noisy world into this sound-filled silence, we often become frightened. We feel like children who see the walls of a house collapse and suddenly find themselves in an open field, or we feel as though we have been violently stripped of our clothing, or like birds torn away from their nests. Our ears begin to ache because the familiar noise is missing; and our bodies have become used to that noise as if it were a downy blanket keeping us warm. We become like addicts who must go through the painful process of withdrawal.”

“Henri J. M. Nouwen, With Open Hands”



The pandemic has forced us into “this sound-filled silence” and has silenced our church buildings but has not silenced our church. The food pantry adapted from its traditional form of a grocery store model to an open offering of a drive through distribution of food. Our outreach has increased.

Our various groups have adapted to Zoom meetings; and at least the ones I’m aware of have greater attendance; one meeting adding a former member currently living in California. Our church service adapted to online streaming and has opened a new outreach opportunity as we are planning to expand our capability of streaming.

Our committees have morphed into the Zoom model AND have used it to have “called

meetings” in addition to our ordinarily scheduled meetings.

These are all positives but we haven't yet found ways to reach out to our elderly and shut-ins. We haven't got all Sunday School classes connected. We still need a “check-up call system” for checking on each other.

With the extended closure of our church buildings we have more to do and more to understand the needs around us.

-Rob Evans



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 UMC | hcumc.org



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