



Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

August 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.



Message from Pastor Cheryl

When our youngest son James was in elementary school in Davie, Florida just west of Fort Lauderdale, we would ride our bikes to school singing, "This is the Day the Lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" We lived about a mile from the school so it was a short ride and nearly perfect weather everyday. He was ahead of me, beginning the song, with me echoing behind him. We loved rejoicing as we traveled through our neighborhood to the beginning of a new day.

One Sunday morning during my Perkins internship year, I received a gift from a very sweet member. I thought her generosity was so loving, I wanted to spend it on something I would always have. James helped me choose a bracelet with the same words from Psalm 118:24 *This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!* I have worn it everyday, for over 13 years. (However, when you meet my now twenty-five year old son, he may deny all of this!)

The scripture reminds all of us that every day is a gift, a chance to impact the world for the better. Every day

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becomes an opportunity to celebrate the gift of life! Each day gives us moments to reach out in love to those we care about and, in these liminal days, those we miss.

As Bill Keane writes, "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present." Learning to be grateful for today, living here and now is perhaps the best way to move through these days. Somehow finding contentment here and now, in the moments we have today.

We are all in a difficult time. We are all struggling. We are all anxious, weary, and ready for this season to be done. In the Sunday comics this week the Wizard of ID by Heart, Mastroianni and Parker had a countdown to "HAPPY NEW YEAR!". "What are you doing? It's July 26." The wizard responded, "I just decided I was done with this year and ready to start a new one!"

We all are ready for something **new!** But for now, we have the gift of today. A day like no other! A day that offers us time. A day that gives us a chance to be a blessing to someone else. A day to tell someone we love them. A day to choose joy - because we have breath!

I invite you to join me in the mornings with a song - This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Feeling Blessed to be your pastor,

Pastor Cheryl Murphy

Prayer List

The family of Peggy Baskin, A.P. Loyd, Carlos Ponce, our friends at Atria Carrollton, those who have lost employment, Barbara Hunt, Rev. Gene Wisdom, Charles Hinton, Janet Trumble, Barbara Wright, Aletha Craven, Mary Harrison, Tyler Ackerman, Jojo Sain, and the family of Janice Vandaveer.

Loved Ones in the Military

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

Ad Council Decision

After long and emotional meetings, conversations and prayers, the Trustees recommended and the Ad Council agreed to delay the opening of the ECDP until January 2021. Director, Beth McClure has been working extremely hard to prepare the classrooms, the teachers and the families for an on-time opening, but with the COVID cases still remarkably high in our area, our best decision "to do no harm" was to delay the school year until the second semester. We know this is a heartbreaking decision and will impact our teachers and families, but it was our best way to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Please keep the ECDP teachers and families in our prayers as we continue to move through this uncharted season.

We will also be offering no in-person worship service for the month of August. We will continue to have worship through Facebook and our website. Please join us there for passionate worship each week!

-Pastor Cheryl Murphy

Empty ECDP Halls

ECDP has been working with the Trustees Committee to compile a set of policies and procedures to open the preschool in the fall and protect our students, families, and teachers. In the end the Trustees Committee was not satisfied that we could enact sufficient measures to protect our students during this time of high COVID numbers in Dallas County. On the 28th of July, Holy Covenant's Ad Council voted to delay the opening of the preschool until January 2021. In the interim, the preschool is exploring alternative learning options such as outdoor learning, but there is no solid plan for the preschool at this time. It has been a privilege to serve the community of Carrollton for the past 42 years. There are so many stories of families that we have touched and children we have helped. No doubt, many of you have your own stories about the importance of the preschool to your own family. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the community in Holy Covenant.



-Beth McClure, ECDP Director

School Supplies



Thank You!

Thanks to your generosity, we received over \$900 to purchase school supplies! We will give out the supplies during our Food Drive Through on Sunday, August 9th. We need a few people to help bag the supplies on **Tuesday, August 4th** in the sanctuary. If you are available, please contact Pastor Cheryl cmurphy@hcumc.org or Lois Eaton loiseaton@verizon.net.

Food Pantry Update

July was a very busy month for the Food Pantry. We had two Drive Through Distributions where we served 179 families or 737 individuals. That equates to 9,071 meals. We're finding that our numbers are growing each month.

Starting in August, our schedule for Distributions will be the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

In addition to the Drive Through Distributions, we have started opening the Food Pantry on Thursdays.



A big shout out goes to Lee Shore for donating more shelving for the Food Pantry and to the Spiritual Journeymen for installing the shelves.

Thank you to all the folks who have donated food and for the volunteers who have packed boxes and bags and worked the Distributions. Please sign up on signupgenius.com for the next Distribution on August 9th.

We are serving more clients now, and that means that we need more food than ever before. The North Texas Food Bank has had more food available than in the past, but we are still coming up short when it is time for the Distributions. Please think about donating food. We still need Mac and Cheese and hearty soups. Someone will be at the church on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 – noon to accept your donations.

We need volunteers on the morning of Wednesday, August 5th to unload food when it is delivered at the church!

If you want to join our group of volunteers, please contact Lois Eaton at 214-862-8683 or loiseaton@verizon.net.

-Lois Eaton

Blessing of the Backpacks



Sunday, August 16 during worship

Pastor Cheryl invites all students to watch our streaming worship on Sunday, August 16th at 10:30 am when she will bless backpacks and students starting the new semester--whether online or in person.

Blood Drive

Sunday, August 23 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Carter BloodCare will have their bus in the Holy Covenant parking lot from **8:30 am to 12:30 pm** on Sunday, August 23rd. You may sign up [here](#) or show up that day.

All donors in August will receive a special Thank You from Chick-fil-A. Also, COVID-19 Antibody Testing is now available for all donors. Carter observes social distancing guidelines and you will be expected to wear a mask.



Elections 2020 Presentation

Sunday, August 23 at 9:00 am via Zoom



Advocates for Justice and Peace is presenting a program on Elections 2020 on August 23rd during the Sunday School time from 9:00-10:15. Everyone is invited even if you are not part of a Sunday School class. Representatives from the League of Women Voters will be presenting information for both Dallas and Denton Counties. The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan.

The presentation will be conducted on Zoom, and the link to the meeting and a handout will come in the Weekly Email one and two weeks prior to the presentation. So, please look for them and plan to attend.

Holy Covenant 2020 Auction!

Saturday, October 3

Uncertainty seems to be the state of the world today. But you, Holy Covenant, have an Auction Committee that is here to give you answers! Once again, you can be certain!
 YES! There will be an Auction in 2020!
 YES! You can donate special items!
 YES! You will be able to bid on amazing experiences and items!
 YES! It will be October 3!

See? Isn't that easy?

The Auction Committee is planning for a live, in-person event, but is also realistic enough to have a Plan B. In the event that our situation has not improved, we will continue with an online live auction. We're busily researching the options and will keep you informed as the situation unfolds. We will not host a dinner event this year in conjunction with the Auction, but that's okay. Kammie's amazing dinners were FULL of calories we don't



need. (All my friends are talking about the “COVID 15”... pounds, that is....)

Because of the concern – and possible need for Plan B – we are only planning for the Live portion of the Auction. We will not have the hundreds and hundreds of amazing silent auction deals this year. We expect to have about 40ish fabulous items available for bid. But that depends on you – your generosity and creativity. Consider yourself challenged to think of great donations in the era of social distancing! (Here’s a hint – the ever-popular Dessert of the Month is open this year! Claim that donation quickly!)

So mark your calendar for tons of fun – maybe with a new twist – on Saturday, October 3, as we all gather as a community of faith and fun to raise money for local and global missions. C’mon – go mark it now – you know you don’t want to miss this!

-Melissa Beard

Finance Update



**July Giving:
Budgeted \$34,365
Received to Date \$35,029**

While we continue to worship online only, we ask that you continue to give to Holy Covenant during this time in whatever way works best for you. To give online, go to hcumc.org. You may pay through your bank's online bill pay options, and even set up a recurring payment system. If you prefer to write a check, please send it to: Holy Covenant UMC, 1901 E. Peters Colony Rd., Carrollton, TX 75007.

Thank you to all who have begun paying online.

Your contribution statement will be sent next week!

Music Department

Hello to the faithful congregation of Holy Covenant UMC.

I am so happy to be named your Music Director. This little note is just a peek at what we are planning for the Music Department.

If you have noticed, we started the Praise Band to minister in our ‘Live Streaming’ service on Sunday mornings. I think this has been a great start to the newest chapter of the music department here at HCUMC. I want to thank Andrea, Melanie, Tremayne, Mike, Tim, Amy, Jennifer, and Kammie. They have all stepped up to bring great, quality and spirit-filled music every Sunday. Please send blessings their way.



I am adding 3, maybe 4 new groups this month. We will have 2 6-person handbell choirs, an 8

voice ensemble for vocal music, and possibly children's chimes (we'll have to see how we can swing it). Keeping in line with social distancing, the bell choirs and the double quartet will not meet at same time. They will be masked (until they must sing) and hand sanitizer will be available. We are taking every opportunity to keep you safe and healthy.

It is so great to be able to put down roots at a church that is so welcoming. Tim and I feel at home here, though we are still trying to get the lay-of-the-land. I was given a beautiful orchid on my first day of work and --believe it or not- it is still alive! I have purple thumbs (I can kill cactus that you don't have to water) but I think the right angle of the sun and the love in this church is keeping it alive.

If any of you would like to drop me a line, my email address at the church is vkleinhenz@hcumc.org

Soli Deo Gloria,
Vera Kleinhenz, Music Director

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.

Rob's Ramblings

Connection

Last month I commented on how ZOOM meetings have become the norm for meetings at Holy Covenant. Some people missed the face to face meetings at church while others have commented on the benefits of the ZOOM meetings--no travel time to and from the church; no lingering after the meetings to have one last word; no post meeting parking lot gatherings. What I have noticed is better attendance at the meetings and more engagement in the meetings. ALL GOOD.



But I want to continue last month's column lamenting the loss of connection amongst everyone. Most Sunday School classes are continuing to meet via ZOOM. *The loss of connection is with members not in a Sunday School class or in a small group.* If you are in a small group I encourage you to reach out and remain connected with your small group. During this time of the pandemic a friendly familiar voice can do wonders to lift someone's spirit.

Some members have no electronic communication capability or are hesitant to use that capability. Some are elderly and ill. The reasons are varied but they serve as barriers to connection. By the time you read this we will have started "HCUMC Member Connection" where we strive to assure connection with every member of the church. The connection may be through your class or your small group OR through a call from one of the "Connection" team members. As the pandemic continues connection with each other becomes most important and Most intentional. If you have not made a connection within the next few weeks please send me an email so I can partner you with one of the team members. My email address is revans9409@hotmail.com.

-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.

Holy Covenant UMC | hcumc.org



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