



# Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

October 1, 2020 | Issue 184

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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](http://hcumc.org).**



## Message from Pastor Cheryl

“When Jesus is not the way, we lose our way.” Bishop Michael Curry declared on a Zoom lecture I attended last week.

As we are each walking through hard days-- personally, professionally, emotionally, spiritually, apart, isolated, through a fear of Covid, during a divisive election in a racially charged environment--if we are honest, we may be struggling to focus on Jesus. And normally congregations, in the midst of stormy days, call on everyone to pray. Praying is awesome, Paul tells us to “pray without ceasing!”

However, I think we need to do even more this time than pray. I think we need to do something! We need to remember that we are set apart to be a voice of compassion, grace, love and peace. We need to remind everyone that Jesus is our only way! And Jesus is the One who teaches us and challenges us to love one another!

**Staff**

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

So I am inviting you to join me in a loving response to our community during this turbulent season. You are invited to pick up a Holy Covenant sign for your front yard, for the busy intersection by your home, for a spot that needs a bit of Jesus' love, and plant it. The signs will display to our community the words reminding us to LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR! We are also offering the invitation that: *You are welcome here*. I am hoping this will offer a balance, a Shalom peace in the midst of a world that feels in need.

The Bishop is absolutely right: When Jesus is not the way, we lose our way! Let's walk together in the footprints of Jesus!

Blessings,  
Pastor Cheryl Murphy

**Prayer List**

The Mundell family; Toni Parsons; Carlos Ponce; Nikki Holmes; Barbara Hunt's nephew; Paige Castor; Paul Fincke; Charles Hinton; Janet Trumble; Barbara Wright; Aletha Craven; Mary Harrison; Florence Richter; Tyler Ackerman; Jojo Sain; and Mike Gilbert.

**Loved Ones in the Military**

KeNi Gaines, Zach Glass, Jake Oliver and Antonio Ramirez.



**Yard Signs**

- **Pick up from the church office Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday**
- **Between 9 am and 4 pm**
- **A donation of \$10 is requested**

**Phone Streaming**



Do you know someone who would like to follow along with our worship by phone? Contact Pastor Cheryl [cmurphy@hcumc.org](mailto:cmurphy@hcumc.org) or call Elise Odell in the church office 972-492-2432

## October Dates

**10/1** 6 pm Advocates for Justice & Peace - via Zoom  
**10/5** 5 pm Lay Leadership - via Zoom  
**10/6** 6 pm Preschool Board - via Zoom  
 7 pm Missions - via Zoom  
**10/11** 1-3 pm Food Drive Thru - HCUMC parking lot  
**10/13** 7 pm Finance - via Zoom  
**10/20** 7 pm SPPR - via Zoom  
**10/24** 4-5:30 pm Falloween Parade - HCUMC parking lot  
**10/27** 7 pm Ad Council - via Zoom  
**10/31** 9 am - 12 pm Austin Street Food Donations -  
 HCUMC parking lot by the kitchen



## World Communion Special Offering



Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. For our communion offering, we invite you to give a gift to support *Connectional Outreach*. Please note on your check or online gift, "Communion Offering".

One important recipient of Connectional Outreach is UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Your generous giving allows UMCOR to provide Global Ministries even during a global pandemic!

## October Worship

Join us for Live Streaming worship. We are working towards in-person worship, but for now we are inviting you to join us on the [website](#) or [Facebook](#). We can't wait to be able to gather, but we are not safe to do so yet.

**October 4** World Communion Sunday  
*Please join worship with juice and bread of some kind.*

We will be celebrating our Global connection and the invitation to the Lord's Table.

**October 11** Loving our Neighbor

We will be reflecting on the issues that are dividing us and those uniting us in love.

**October 18** Children's Sabbath

Children will be joining us to celebrate and sing "Jesus Loves Me" – a wonderful reminder for us all!

**October 25** Laity Sunday

Our Holy Covenant laity will be leading us in worship celebrating their passion for the Lord and our local church family!



## Food Pantry Update



We have now held four months of Drive Through Food Distributions, and we have gone from serving 113 families a month in June to serving 272 families in September.

Thank you to all the folks who have donated food and money and for the volunteers who have packed boxes and bags and worked the

Distributions. If our numbers continue to grow, we are going to need more people to sign up to pack food. Please sign up on [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com) for the next Distribution on **October 11<sup>th</sup>**.

If you would like to donate to the Food Pantry, you can do so online, by mailing a check to the church, or by dropping off your donation at the church office Tuesday – Friday.

We are doing well with the food we can order from the North Texas Food Bank, but we still come up short on a few items. We are also trying to get a head start on doing something special for Thanksgiving.

**For that, we need:**

**Instant mashed potatoes**

**Canned sweet potatoes or yams**

**Green Beans**

**Dressing**

**Soup**

Someone will be at the church on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 – noon to accept your donations.

We are so lucky to have received the \$5,000 grant from The Texas Methodist Foundation. It has made it possible for us to purchase items we need in the Food Pantry, such as shelves, carts, dollies, signs, extra food, diapers, and pet food.

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

-Lois Eaton

## Secure Document Shredding

**Saturday, October 17**

**10:00 am to 1:30 pm**

**Holy Covenant parking lot**

Sponsored by Holy Covenant's Green Team. Open to the public. Protect your identity while supporting Holy Covenant. Watch your documents being shredded on site with the utmost security. \$5 per copy paper sized box. Invite your friends and family to bring their sensitive documents to be shredded. Shredding will be done by Secure On Site Shredding Inc.

Visit [www.secureonsiteshredding.com](http://www.secureonsiteshredding.com) for more information about the company.



## Falloween Parade



**Saturday, October 24  
4:00 to 5:30 pm  
Holy Covenant parking lot**

You're invited to Holy Covenant UMC's Falloween Parade, on Saturday, October 24th from 4:00-5:30. In lieu of a traditional trunk or treat, our Falloween Parade will provide a way for our community to safely reconnect while remaining physically distant.

Families with kids may reserve their parking spots by emailing Erin Shepardson at [erin@shepardson.us](mailto:erin@shepardson.us). Individuals and families, who would like to participate by passing out candy during the parade, should join the procession\* line by 4:25. Decorating your car is highly encouraged but not mandatory.

\*Procession will enter the parking lot from the East side on Peters Colony and exit on the Paxton side. Please park facing west along the church's field on Peter's Colony. Turn on your hazard lights to signify you are a part of the parade. And please do not block Josey.

## Breakfast for Austin Street

**Saturday, October 31  
9:00 am to Noon  
Holy Covenant Kitchen**

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 and 12 hard-boiled eggs* and deliver them to Holy Covenant on **Saturday, October 31st, between 9 am and noon**. *Bottled water and juice boxes are also appreciated*. Please drive around to 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. Contact Rick Davis for more information 972-814-5325, [mdrdtexas@hotmail.com](mailto:mdrdtexas@hotmail.com).



## Free Pallets



When we receive food for the Food Pantry, it comes on pallets - every Wednesday. If you would like some of those pallets, please contact Lois Eaton at 214-862-8683 or [loiseaton@verizon.net](mailto:loiseaton@verizon.net).

## Finance Update

**September Giving:**  
**Projected: \$34,365**  
**Received: \$25,425**

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](http://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 continue to give online.*



## 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](mailto:tim@shepardson.us).

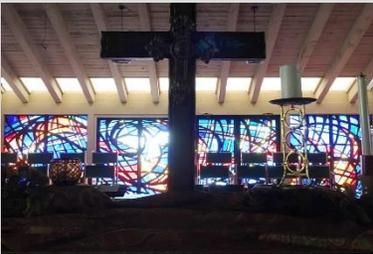
## The Big Dig

Holy Covenant's version of the **Big Dig** was completed on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. A group of young men, old men and one lady undertook the temporary repair of the hole at the garbage truck approach to the dumpster behind the Covenant Center. The hole and pushed-up, broken concrete pieces had been a severe trip hazard for a long time. Crushed concrete of three sizes was used to fill the hole in steps and then compacted in steps. It is definitely safer to walk there now, and hopefully the fill will withstand the wear and tear from the garbage trucks. The repair will likely require adding of more fill from time to time until church finances improve and that section of the concrete pad can be replaced with a permanent slab.





## Rob's Ramblings



Cheryl Murphy, Jim Guest and I just finished a Zoom series on Methodism. If you missed it you can still watch it on the recorded Zoom meetings on the links below.

Class 1. [Methodist History](#). Use Passcode: D.c#Z2aD

Class 2. [Methodist Theology](#). Use Passcode: !pwIB+4G

Class 3. [Methodist Polity](#). Use Passcode: uuW!#\$5Q

We had great attendance and we invited the attendees to give us additional topics to review and present. If you have any topic you'd like to have a class on please let us know.

Wow, it's already October and so much is happening around the church even though we are not yet able to "come to church." We are learning ways to connect with the streaming of our actual church services; the expansion of audio streaming of the services for those who lack the resources to watch the services; the zooming of various meetings throughout the week; small group social distancing in person gatherings-whether on church property or at some park. In fact, we've recently run into competing use of our zoom account. This is all good and is an indication that we, Holy Covenant, are alive and in connection with one another. All these things point to greater connection to the church.

Our Annual Conference was just held "virtually" and required changes in the usual methods for Annual Conference. This annual meeting is a chance for our clergy to gather together with fellow clergy and for laity to see their former pastors. Something none of us realized is how important the in-person gatherings are. Yet we, the church, continue to be a visible, positive influence in the community. Our drive-by food pantry distribution has actually increased the use of the pantry. It has increased the numbers of families served at a time when the need is greater than ever.

And yet, we long for the time when we can come together physically.

-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](http://hcumc.org)



Holy Covenant UMC | 1901 E. Peters Colony Road, Carrollton, TX 75007