



# Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

December 1, 2020 | Issue 186

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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

Welcome to the beginning of our new Christian year, an Advent celebration. We begin with a season of waiting and preparing for the arrival of the babe in the manger, the coming of Christ into our lives, and the beginning of the end to this pandemic year. Although we are still in the liminal space of in-between--knowing we can't return to all that was, but uncertain of all that lies ahead--our hope is a vaccination on the horizon, the light of the Christmas season filling us and better days just around the corner, will bring us joy!

We have several ways for you to connect with us this Advent season.

**Sunday worship** will be streamed online on Sundays at 10:30 AM. Each week there will be Christmas music, prayers, and a witness. The children have received bags of crafts delivered to their homes that will help them to participate. A big thank you to Heather Hinton for creating this treat for our kids!

**Monday evening Advent Study at 6:30 PM** - available on Zoom. Our foundation for conversation will be Adam Hamilton's new book *Incarnation, Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*. We will begin on Monday, November 30 and run every Monday evening (except December 28) ending on January 4. We invite you to join a group that would love to connect with you once a week!

**Daily Devotionals will begin December 1.** We will email them to you first thing in the morning. There will be scripture, a brief reflection, and a sentence prayer. We



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**Outdoor Worship  
SUSPENDED  
Due to Cold Weather**

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**Staff**

**Rev. Cheryl Murphy**  
[cmurphy@hcumc.org](mailto:cmurphy@hcumc.org)  
Senior Pastor

**Vera Kleinhenz**  
[vkleinhenz@hcumc.org](mailto:vkleinhenz@hcumc.org)  
Music Director

**Julian-Louis Carter**  
[youth@hcumc.org](mailto:youth@hcumc.org)  
Youth Director

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

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

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hope this will help to focus all of us on the light of the Advent season.

**Christmas Eve Worship** will be outside in-person for all families and children at 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 24. Join us bundled up for a fun service that will share the Christmas story with the children!

At 5:00 PM we will have a livestreamed candlelight service from the beautiful Holy Covenant sanctuary. The service will be available for you to watch on Facebook or the website anytime that evening. We will continue to celebrate the tradition of our Walk to the Manger gift. Please be generous with your year-end giving, as it will continue to help the ministries to our families and to our neighbors.

Although we will not be together in one room to worship and celebrate Advent and the Christmas arrival, we can join in other ways. Please find ways to stay connected. Please remember we are as close as your phone or computer. Stay in touch with us and know we will miss you this year being here with us!

Advent Blessings,  
Pastor Cheryl Murphy

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**Prayer List**

The Brooks-McCutchen family; the family of Terrence Nix; Carlos Ponce; Mary Luce; Nikki Holmes; Max and Nicole Thomas; Paul Fincke; Charles Hinton; Janet Trumble; Barbara Wright; Aletha Craven; Mary Harrison; Florence Richter; Tyler Ackerman; Jojo Sain; and Mike Gilbert.

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**Loved Ones in the Military**

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

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**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

## December Dates

12/1 7 pm Ad Council - via Zoom  
12/3 6 pm Advocates for Justice & Peace - via Zoom  
12/6 12:30 pm Youth meet in the Covenant Center  
12/6 1-3 pm Food Drive Thru - HC parking lot  
12/6 Angel Tree gift cards/donations due!  
12/8 7 pm SPPR - via Zoom  
12/13 8:30 am - 12 pm Blood Drive - HC parking lot  
12/15 7 pm Finance - via Zoom  
12/20 1-3 pm Food Drive Thru - HCUMC parking lot  
12/24 3 pm Christmas Eve Worship - Outside Family Service  
5 pm Christmas Eve Worship – livestreamed



## December Worship



**Sunday Worship -**  
10:30 am Live Streamed on the [website](#) or [Facebook](#).

**December 6** Second Sunday of Advent - WATCH for the Light  
**December 13** Third Sunday of Advent - PREPARE for the Light  
**December 20** Fourth Sunday of Advent - PRAISE the Light  
**December 24** Christmas Eve - CELEBRATING the Light  
**December 27** First Sunday after Christmas Day

## Advent Study

### Mondays at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Join us for an Advent Study, Mondays at 6:30 PM. We will base it on the Adam Hamilton book *Incarnational, Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*. You do not have to read the book to join us, it will just serve as a beginning point.  
December 7 – The Savior & our need for saving  
December 14 – Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic  
December 21 – The Light of the World  
January 4 – Epiphany – Falling on our knees

This year may be a difficult one to find Christmas Joy. My prayerful hope is that we will discover it together. We will remind each other of wonder of the season.

You are welcome for one or all of these sessions. I will look forward to “seeing” you on Monday!

Pastor Cheryl is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
Topic: HCUMC Advent Study  
Time: 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)



Every week on Mon, until Jan 4, 2021  
Dec 7, 2020 06:30 PM  
Dec 14, 2020 06:30 PM  
Dec 21, 2020 06:30 PM  
Jan 4, 2021 06:30 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0lcO2qrT4uHtZ95mrs6y3lJSnbPYaRqwTA/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjwuGNeQtB2FRpx5Go\\_CLOrztiVbgrdnxUroETMFe1DfHNFMMIJGEerB](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0lcO2qrT4uHtZ95mrs6y3lJSnbPYaRqwTA/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjwuGNeQtB2FRpx5Go_CLOrztiVbgrdnxUroETMFe1DfHNFMMIJGEerB)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89874235442?pwd=WU1mbXRQTDQ2MDhjOFIETVBaMnVUQT09>

Meeting ID: 898 7423 5442

Passcode: 941506

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,89874235442#,,,,,0#,,941506# US (Houston)

+14086380968,,89874235442#,,,,,0#,,941506# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 898 7423 5442

Passcode: 941506

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kjx0xulY2>

## Angel Tree

### Time is Running Out!



Holy Covenant and Connecting the Community will serve children and families in the Carrollton area this Christmas. Due to COVID, we are working with [connectingthecommunity.org](https://connectingthecommunity.org) to offer a virtual Angel Tree. Instead of buying gifts, we invite you to instead purchase gift cards.

Go to [connectingthecommunity.org](https://connectingthecommunity.org) and choose Amazon or Walmart gift cards, or you can make a monetary donation to the church which will be used to buy gift cards. You can have the cards emailed to the church, mailed, or you can drop them off at the church office.

***All gift cards need to be received at Holy Covenant by Sunday, December 6.***

## Food Pantry Update

The last eight months have been busy ones for the Food Pantry, and we have seen our number of clients grow each month. That shouldn't be a surprise, since Denton County has a 21% food insecurity rate in 2020. That rate was 15% in 2019 and 10-11% in 2018.

Holy Covenant Food Pantry works hard each month to answer the call of the needs in our area of the county. In April, we had one Distribution and served **64** families. In November, we had two Distributions and served **307** families.



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](https://signupgenius.com) for the next Distribution on **December 6th** or contact **Lois Eaton 214-862-8683** or [loiseaton@verizon.net](mailto:loiseaton@verizon.net).

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

-Lois Eaton

## Blood Drive



**Sunday, December 13**  
**8:30 am to Noon**  
**Holy Covenant Parking Lot**

Give blood and get Dallas Mavericks gear!  
COVID-19 antibody testing now available for all donors.  
Carter BloodCare observes social distancing guidelines.  
Please wear a mask.

## 2021 Pledge Update

We've received 42 pledges so far for 2021, compared to 62 in 2020. If you haven't turned yours in, it's not too late! Turning in a pledge card helps us to plan more effectively which is so important for our ministries in the coming year.



## Finance Update



**November Giving:**  
**Projected: \$34,365**  
**Received: \$23,543**

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.

*Giving has been lower than projected so far in this last quarter of 2020, so it's incredibly important that we meet our December giving goal, including the Walk to the Manger offering.*

## Pallets

Each week when food is delivered to the Food Pantry, we get 3-4 pallets. We need to find homes for these pallets. If you are interested in obtaining some of these pallets, contact Lois Eaton at 214-862-8683 or [loiseaton@verizon.net](mailto:loiseaton@verizon.net). The price of the pallets is a donation to the Food Pantry.



## 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).

## Metrocrest Social Services Needs Your Furniture

**2661 Midway Rd, #207**  
**Carrollton, TX 75006**

Metrocrest ReSale Store has reopened and is in need of gently used or new items--especially furniture. Donations can be dropped off at the back door of the store, Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[Click here for donation policy.](#)

To request a pickup, please call (972) 250-1900 to schedule and get availability.



They highly encourage everyone to wear a mask and practice social distancing when dropping off donations to ensure the continued safety of everyone.

## Rob's Ramblings



I write this Rob's Ramblings just before Thanksgiving in the year of the COVID-19 pandemic. I've thought a great deal about what to write. I've had several ideas-some good and others, well, not so good. What I keep coming back to is "memories of Thanksgiving seasons past." Some were with the larger family and some with only Colleen and me. Every Thanksgiving has some key (notice I didn't say outstanding) thing that remain clear in my memory.

I remember one thanksgiving when Colleen and I were moving as a young couple-We had thanksgiving at a Denny's after a tiring day of the move. There wasn't any semblance of a Thanksgiving meal. I remember another that morphed into a tradition-We went to my brother's in San Antonio for an extended family Thanksgiving weekend. This year the tradition has yielded to the caution of the pandemic and we will have our dinner at home-BUT then our plan is to journey over to Plano to share dessert with our daughter's family in the backyard with (hopefully) adequate social distancing. You can ask me next week how it went.

I spent some time also reflecting on how Holy Covenant has responded during this pandemic period with the huge expansion of our food pantry into a twice a month drive in food distribution. For a church of our size this has truly been a uniting effort for church members AND a god send for the community. We know that we have given large amounts of food away and we believe that we have helped hundreds maybe thousands of people with the food drives. Equally important is how the church members have pulled together in this ministry. In March we had no idea that God was calling us to provide such an uplift for families we don't even know.

Although isolated from one another our faith, our spirit, our service has pulled us together in help for each other; for the community and for our individual well-being. We have much to still do-things we can't see now; things we can't imagine and things that will stretch and strengthen our faith.

Please take time this season to reflect on things; reflect on our health, our happiness, our faith and our service to others. Reflect and rejoice.

-Rob Evans

## Hats Off to Linda Franklin

Thank You to Linda Franklin for donating beautiful handstitched hats we gave out at our last Food Distribution!





**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