



# Holy Covenant UMC Newsletter

January 1, 2021 | Issue 187

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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



## Message from Pastor Cheryl

Happy January! Happy 2021! Perhaps the most wished for new year in our life times!

One of the Murphy family traditions is to choose a guiding word for the new year. Over the past few years my words have been: joy, believe, lead, and this past year, WISDOM. As we began 2020, I thought the leadership I would need in my church work needed to be guided by the Spirit and wisdom. As the first quarter came to a close, as did everything due to the pandemic, I thought the wisdom I needed was to make decisions that would keep people safe, to do no harm. Within a few weeks I received a call from the Metro DS, Rev Debra Hobbs Mason, requiring me to grasp the wisdom I would need to say goodbye to a church I could not see, and greet a church I have yet to meet. The holy wisdom I have needed this year has not been what I thought as I chose the word January 1, 2020. But it has been a helpful word to hold on to each day.

you may have missed  
at [hcumc.org](http://hcumc.org).



**Outdoor Worship  
SUSPENDED  
Due to Cold Weather**

**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



**Youth Ministry  
January 2021**

I have not yet chosen my new 2021 word. I will be creating prayerful space to do so. I would like to invite you to join the Murphy tradition. Think of a guiding word that will be almost a breath prayer for you as you go into this challenging year of hope that lies ahead of all of us! And find creative ways to remember it. Use it as a new year password. Have it placed in ways before you. Remind yourself often that this word will be a light to focus on as you move into your day.

As we set our goals, our hopes and dreams I wanted to share this poem from Howard Thurman that perhaps will remind us of the work ahead for all of us:

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among all,  
To make music in the heart.

May we be filled with the blessed light of the babe, the Savior that arrived in the manger.

May 2021 bring each of us healing from a pandemic, but also from anxiety and fear that has overwhelmed us.

May we each be a blessing to others both through visible and invisible works of mercy.

May 2021 be a year that brings comfort and Shalom peace to our souls and music to our hearts!

May the Lord Bless and Keep You!

With Love and Blessings,  
Pastor Cheryl Murphy

**Prayer List**

The Wright family; the Yull family; the family of Thomas Elms; Rex McAnally; Carlos Ponce; Ginny Long; Andy Edwards; Max and Nicole Thomas; Paul Fincke; Charles Hinton; Janet Trumble; Barbara Wright; Aletha Craven; Mary Harrison; Florence Richter; Tyler Ackerman; Jojo Sain; Mike Gilbert; our friends at Atria Carrollton; and those who have lost employment.

**January 3:** Gym, 2pm - 3:30pm  
**January 10:** Gym, 12:30pm- 2pm  
**January 17:** Gym, 12:30pm- 2pm  
 (Parent Meeting: 2pm - 3pm)  
**January 24:** Gym, 12:30 - 2pm  
**January 31:** Gym, 12:30 - 2pm

### Loved Ones in the Military

KeNi Gaines, Sean Murphy, Jake Oliver and Antonio Ramirez.

## 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

## January Dates

**1/1** New Year's Day, CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
**1/7** 6 pm Advocates for Justice & Peace - via Zoom  
**1/10** 1-3 pm Food Drive Thru - HC parking lot  
**1/12** 7 pm SPPR - via Zoom  
**1/17** 9 am Racial Injustice Program - via Zoom  
**1/19** 7 pm Finance - via Zoom  
**1/23** Trustees Walk thru at the church  
**1/24** 1-3 pm Food Drive Thru - HC parking lot  
**1/26** 7 pm Ad Council - via Zoom  
**1/30** 9am-noon Food Collection for Austin Street



## January Worship



### Sunday Worship -

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

**January 3** Epiphany Sunday - Matthew 2:1-12

**January 10** Baptism of the Lord - Mark 1:4-11

**January 17** Guest Preacher, Rev. Marcus Jones

**January 24** Following Jesus - Mark 1:14-20

**January 31** Healing Power of Jesus - Mark 1:21-28

## Thank You, HC Class of 2020 Leadership!

With great appreciation we thank the following leadership for all they have offered our Holy Covenant family. Many have served for several years and in some cases extended terms for many years. We are grateful for your faithful service, your many hours, your talents, your energy, your passion and your tireless gift of faithfulness even in a year such as this one. Each committee has had its challenges in a shut-down building, a pastoral change, new staff hiring and the juggling of finances to keep moving ahead even when we are unable to gather in person for classes and worship.



Thank you!  
 Amanda Bowes  
 Elliott Beard  
 Tremayne Phillips  
 Melanie Luce  
 Rodney Stewart  
 Andrea Allen  
 Stephanie Knibbs  
 Ted Ditty  
 Richard Richter  
 Jill Yull  
 Stacy Phillips  
 Kim Ditty

And a big thank you to Tim Shepardson for his years of serving as our Treasurer!

For the new year of 2021, we have many brave faithful souls that are stepping up to serve. Here is the leadership that was approved during our Charge Conference in November. These wonderful individuals will begin serving in January. We are grateful!

**Ad Council Chair:** Rob Evans

**Lay Leader:** Mary Mitchell Trimble

**Lay Delegate to Annual Conference:** Preston Hunt

**Young Adult Rep.:** Travis Williams

**Certified Lay Servant:** Helma Gentry

**SPPR:** Scott Boren (chair), Colleen Evans, Sharon Harris, Sharon Gonzales, Lindsay Barnes, Ashley Norris, Donna Hatter, Lee Shore, Rick Davis

**Lay Leadership Development:** Ashley Norris, Sharon Harris, Cindy Baucom, Randy Lasley, Lee Shore, Sherry Dunn, Melissa Beard, Hal Barkley, Jon Blackburn Mays

**Finance:** Tracy Piccola-Norris (chair), Gary Barnes, Rusty Yull, Kathy Amos, Rodney Stewart, Jeanne Selby, Dante Paa, Randy Lasley, Frank Mincieli

**Trustees:** John Mays, Marty McLaughlin, Rick Davis, Dave Hill, Tim Shepardson, Kelly Mellor, William Powell, Gary Chandler, Donna Johnson

**Missions:** Christine Perry, Elise Odell, Ginny Long, Sherry Dunn, Lois Eaton, Mary Mitchell Trimble, Mandie Long, Donna Johnson, Rodney Stewart, Rick Davis, Linda Hill, Bob Michael

**Advocates for Justice & Peace:** Lois Eaton, Kathy Amos, Cindy Baucom, Mary Mitchell Trimble, Mary Blomquist, Mary Burnett, Sherry Dunn, Jeanne Selby, Rob Evans, Karen McGuffin, Bob Michael, Rodney Stewart

**Children's Ministry:** Erin Shepardson, Heather Hinton, Stacy Phillips, Ashley Norris, Donna Hatter, Melissa Beard

**Youth Ministry:** Elliott Beard, Lindsay Barnes

**Connectional Care:** Julie Fuller, Helma Gentry, Rob Evans, Cherl Harrell, Sherry Dunn, Rhonda King

## Invitation to Advocates for Justice & Peace



Holy Covenant's Advocates for Justice and Peace is a very active committee made up of individuals seeking to live out the call to do justice by educating the congregation and community on justice and peace issues.

We believe people – regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, economic standing, legal status, or family structure – deserve equal, compassionate, inclusive treatment, and that we must act publicly to support others and to challenge our society.

In a normal year we:

- sponsor the Food Pantry
- support The Texas Coalition for the Abolishment of the Death Penalty
- provide dinner quarterly for Youth First, an organization that opens its doors to LGBTQ youth
- present educational programs for the congregation, such as Elections, Human Trafficking, and Environmental Justice
- host the fan drive
- support Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
- assist the public with voter registration
- participate in Human Trafficking Outreach at Bent Tree

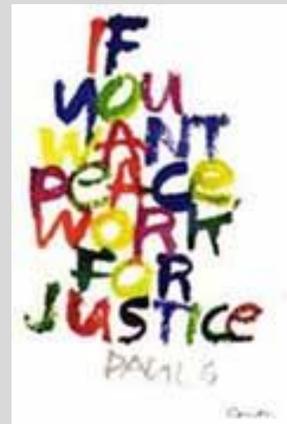
We will be meeting on **Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM on Zoom**. Please consider joining us. We would love to have you. Contact Lois Eaton at 214-862-8683 for the link to the meeting.

## Racial Injustice Program

**Save the Date: Sunday, January 17 at 9:00 am**

Holy Covenant's Advocates for Justice and Peace is presenting a program on Racial Injustice at 9:00 during the Sunday School hour on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

“Justice work requires the deep wellsprings of prayer, devotion, and intentional spiritual practices. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. understood this, and it was one of the many reasons he had the endurance, courage, and fortitude to withstand supreme opposition during his life's fight for justice, equity, and equality. Join us as we welcome Rev. Marcus Jones of the Wesley Campus Ministry at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls as he gives us tools and strategies from the life of MLK in our quest as individuals, as a church, and as a community to bring justice to our world.”



This presentation will be on Zoom. The link will be sent in the Weekly Email the week before the 17<sup>th</sup> and will also be sent the morning of the presentation.

## Breakfast for Austin Street

### Food Donations accepted Saturday, January 30 from 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, January 30th, 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).

## Food Pantry Update

2020. This year is one for the record books, wouldn't you say? There are numerous stories to share about 2020 and this one is about our Food Pantry Drive Through Distribution.

Holy Covenant's food pantry in 1983 was a small closet with a few shelves, stocked with peanut butter, tuna, crackers, canned goods and other various non-perishable items. We had one or two regular clients that would stop by occasionally for help with food. Our current food pantry space has been used several ways over the past 40 something years: the church nursery, the first kindergarten school classroom for our ECDP, a storage area, and then in 2017 it was converted to the Senior Pastor's office! By the summer of 2020, we needed to expand the food pantry again and we took over the entire northeast quadrant of the sanctuary.



Our food pantry operations and our volunteers have had to change many times over the last 40 years too. Prior to Covid, we were a **drop-in, walk-in** emergency food pantry, 3 days a week, with our clients coming **in** to the church to get food. With Covid and the urging of our Senior Pastor, we devised a plan to get the food **out** to our clients. We created a drive through option, 2 Sundays a month. A team of volunteers called all of our existing clients (about 50 people) to let them know about our new protocol.

We now have about 70-80 volunteers who either order food from the North Texas Food Bank, donate food from their homes, take inventory of the pantry, stock the shelves, prepare grocery sacks for distribution, and/or distribute food on Sunday afternoons twice a month. We also have volunteers soliciting donations from our area grocers! The Texas Methodist Foundation and the North Texas Food Bank have awarded grants to help fund the food pantry. These resources and the generosity of the people of Holy Covenant has allowed our food pantry to remain open and help so many in our community during this pandemic.

As a comparison, in 2019, we served 137 families (average about 30 families per month), which included 397 individuals, and delivered 21,822 pounds of food, which equated to 18,185 meals.

Ending the year 2020, we have served 1,280 families, which included 5,127 individuals, and delivered 129,716 pounds of food, which equated to 108,096 meals.

Even though we are a small group of people compared to the number of people we are feeding, we are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Their needs continue to grow as we see our numbers increase at each Sunday afternoon drive through.

Because we know we can count on you, we want to send a HUGE **“THANK YOU”** to all our volunteers. This ministry only happens because of your support. Your efforts are appreciated whether you sack groceries or hand-out bags of groceries or direct traffic on Sundays. Thank you for being the Body of Christ to so many in our community.

We would like you to participate in this ministry. Take a moment to consider what you can do to support the Food Pantry Drive Through and feel free to call the church office to volunteer!

Reminder: the focus of our efforts comes from this Scripture:

**... and what does the Lord require of you but to act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)**

Shalom Y'all!

## Environmental Justice Follow-up



On November 15<sup>th</sup>, your Advocates for Justice & Peace hosted a panel discussion on the subject “Environmental Justice”, aka Environmental Racism/Environmental Injustice. Our distinguished panel included faith leaders, community advocates, educators, and local DFW leaders who shared their experiences and hopes for a more just future. Many, many thanks to Rev. Andrew Fiser, Evelyn Mayo, Misti O’Quinn, and our own Dr. Sharon Harris for your thoughtful insight and your passion about this Justice Issue. It was truly an “eye opener” for many of us. The full video of this discussion is now available on the HCUMC Facebook page. In the face of the many challenges, there is good news. The City of Dallas has begun removing Shingle Mountain as of Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>! (See DMN front page 12/18/20)

During the Zoom presentation, there were a number of questions and comments that spoke to a need for more information about resources and about possible ways to engage more voices in local advocacy. We have compiled a brief resource list that can be used as a reference to local organizational efforts as well as educational publications on this subject. While not exhaustive, it is relevant and contemporary. The resource list will be soon be posted on our HC website.

*“Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly with your God”*

## Finance Update

**December Giving:**

**Projected: \$46,365**

**To Date: \$46,679** (\$36,009 Regular; \$13,670 Walk to the Manger)



We are at **107% of our pre-pandemic forecast** for December!, This is amazing and further proves the faithfulness and resolve of this congregation, even when circumstances aren't ideal. Thank 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.

## 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).



**Holy Covenant**  
united methodist

**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.