

March 2020



# the New Covenant Window

## Take A Look Inside

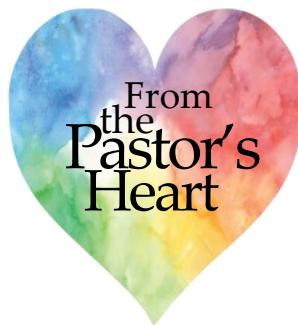
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*Sharing God through love and service.*

## Time For Lent



We are now in the season of Lent, those 40 days (not counting Sundays which are mini-Easters) of preparation for Easter. I pray that we don't rush through the days this year. Rather, let us slow down and take this time seriously. Some of us have given something up for Lent as is tradition. What does it mean to us to give up chocolate or social media? And what does that have to do with preparation for Easter?

Let's start by considering these 40 days. Forty days (or days and nights) occur a number of places in both the Old and New Testaments. It rained for 40 days and nights when Noah and his family floated on the ark with all those animals. The Hebrew people wandered in the desert for 40 years before tripping over the Promised Land, a trip that would have only taken 11 days if they had walked in a straight line. Then Moses spends 40 days and nights fasting on the mountain with God to receive the Ten Commandments. Elijah traveled 40 days and nights to reach Horeb, the mountain of God. Jonah's warning to Nineveh was a 40-day notice until the city would be destroyed if the people did not repent. Jesus fasts for 40 days and nights while in the desert. These are just the best known references to 40 days or years.

What is striking to me about each of these references is that each seems to be some sort of preparation time. They are times for reflection and drawing closer to God. Each is a special time set apart to prepare for what is to come. Even what seems like a punishment in the flood gives a time for reflection and preparation for the new birth or new building that will come. Equally striking (with the exception of Jesus' time in the desert) is that each event includes flawed humans messing it up. Noah and his crew go back to the old ways almost as fast as they get off the boat. Moses comes off the mountain to find the people have made a golden calf to worship. Elijah requires three tries before he notices that God is in the silence. Rather than celebrating, Jonah is ticked off that Nineveh repents. And the wandering of the Hebrew people in the desert is only a brief piece of the story of their shortcomings. And yet...God never stops providing opportunities for God's people to try again.

I suspect that is why we have and need Lent...and need it every year. We need this time for self-reflection. We need time to identify our idols and tear them down. We need a time set aside for the expressed purpose of drawing closer to God. We need time to make a journey that will open us to the voice of God in the silence. We need a time for returning to what it means to be Christian...to love God and neighbor...to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. We need time to repent of the ways in which we have failed because, yes, we need yet another do-over. We need time to confess our failures of the last year, not to beat ourselves up but, to prepare to do better in the coming year. And we need time to reflect on the depth of love that sacrifices everything for us.

I pray that you find meaning, even deep meaning, in your Lenten journey this year.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Dana*



<b>March 1</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Fresh Start Worship Service
<b>March 2</b> 11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Ladies Luncheon
<b>March 4</b> 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm	Pray It Forward
<b>March 5</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fellowship & Games
<b>March 6-7</b> 6:00 pm - 10:00 am	Youth Lock-In
<b>March 8</b> 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	<i>Daylight Savings Time – Spring Forward!</i> JAM Missions Fresh Start Worship Service
<b>March 10</b> 12:00 pm - ?	JAM Field Trip to The Perot Museum
<b>March 12</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fellowship & Games

<b>March 15</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Fresh Start Worship Service
<b>March 18</b> 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	Ewing House
<b>March 19</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Fellowship & Games Sew Whats
<b>March 21</b> 8:00 am - 11:00 am 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm	All Church Clean-Up Day Parent's Night Out
<b>March 22</b> 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	JAM Group JAM Choir Fresh Start Worship Service
<b>March 26</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fellowship & Games
<b>March 28</b> 11:00 am - 2:00 pm	Celebrating Inspirational Women: First UMC Mesquite
<b>March 29</b> 5:30 am - 7:30 am 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Austin Street VBS Planning Meeting Fresh Start Worship Service

## Upcoming Events at New Covenant UMC



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 4:** Lou Gonzales  
Bill Price
- 6:** Bob Norton
- 7:** Jo Grissett
- 9:** Tori Childers
- 10:** Wayne Duke  
Ava Mattox  
James Wheeler

- 12:** Karen Crownover  
**27:** Emily May
- 13:** Keith Willis  
**30:** Carol Dockins
- 14:** Nicholas Payne
- 17:** Kevin Moore
- 19:** Norma Robertson  
Elyse Wahl
- 20:** Gwynn Getto
- 25:** Randy Smith

## Pray It Forward!

Next meeting is March 4th.

**UPDATE: Meetings will be held the 1st Wednesday of each month  
at 5:30 pm in Hallowed Grounds.**

Please send all prayer requests & celebrations to  
Cindy Wolfe via email: [maytag9713@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maytag9713@sbcglobal.net) or text: 214-315-9992.  
You can also see Linda Easton or Cindy Wolfe during services.

NCUMC YOUTH AND CHILDREN

# SPRING INTO J.A.M

- **YOUTH LOCK-IN**  
3/6-3/7 - 6PM TO 10AM
- **JAM MISSIONS**  
3/8 - 4:30 TO 5:30
- **PEROT MUSEUM TRIP**  
3/10 - 12 TO 4
- **PARENTS' NIGHT OUT**  
3/21 - 5 TO 8:30
- **JAM YOUTH GROUP**  
3/22 - 3:30 TO 4:30
- **JAM CHOIR**  
3/22 - 4:30 TO 5:00
- **EASTER EGG HUNT**  
4/4 - 1:00 PM

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
4/9 - 6:00 PM

Laura May Immay314@gmail.com

# A Warm Welcome

On January 19, New Covenant welcomed three individuals as new members of our church. Last month's *Window* introduced you to Linda Miller, a civil engineer who just moved here from London. In this article, you will get to know a little about Robert Amponsah, an electrical engineer, who has moved here from Little Rock, Arkansas, and who has ancestry from Ghana, where his parents were born.

Robert, and his dog, a husky mix named "Gadget", now live in a house he bought in Mesquite. He is employed by AT&T, where he has worked for eight years. His engineering background and expertise is utilized to develop innovative new systems, to enhance the company's efficiency and customer satisfaction.

Robert received his Bachelor of Engineering at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, and followed this up with a Master's degree in Musical Acoustics at the University of Rochester, as well as an MBA from Texas A&M. He has long had an avid interest in music – evidenced by his proficiency on the flute and his many years singing in choir during his robust participation in the Methodist church during his youth. He carries a keen interest in exploring the relationship between music and engineering. His success in his chosen profession is reflected in his active position on the Board of the *National Society of Black Engineers*.



When asked about his thoughts regarding possible future endeavors, he pointed to his enthusiasm for the field of education. Mentoring and teaching young minds to explore engineering and other fields – possibly working with charter school students – would allow him to exercise his strong communication skills.

Robert has recently joined the choir in our non-traditional worship service, and has begun attending New Covenant's new Fresh Start Sunday Worship Service for individuals age 40 and under. His quick involvement in church activities is reflective of his commitment to God's call and the new church he has adopted.

We are blessed that Robert's spiritual journey has crossed New Covenant's threshold. Please take a moment to welcome him to the family.

## In the Tomb Prayer Chain

By Cindy Wolfe and the Pray It Forward Team

Holy Saturday is the day in the Christian liturgical calendar that celebrates the 40-hour-long vigil that the followers of Jesus Christ held after his death and burial on Good Friday and before his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Holy Saturday is the last day of Lent and of Holy Week, and the third day of the Easter Triduum, the three high holidays before Easter, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.<sup>1</sup>

Following our Tenebrae service on Friday, April 10 through Easter Sunday at 6:00 AM, we will hold a prayer vigil. This prayer vigil will take us through that dark time that is Holy Saturday.

We will form a continual chain of prayer. Each person praying for one hour and then passing the baton, per se, to the next member on the list by calling them when their hour begins. On Fri. evening and Sat. morning, the sanctuary will be available for those that want to kneel at the prayer rail. Otherwise, you will pray from home to keep our chain of prayer unbroken. This is a time for our church to pray together for God's will, plan and purpose for New Covenant UMC to be carried out in us.

**\*\*Sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the education wing\*\***

Please join us for Project Transformation's annual fundraiser

**Partners in Transformation Luncheon:**  
Partners in Hope

## Save the Date

Thursday, April 2nd  
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Highland Park United Methodist Church  
Tolleson Family Activity Center

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honorable Mike Rawlings  
61st Mayor of Dallas

### CHAMPION OF LITERACY AWARD

Michelle Staubach Grimes  
Children's book author and mental health advocate

### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Michael Goddard  
Top 12 nominee for National Superintendent of the Year  
Lovejoy ISD Superintendent





## A Centennial Celebration!

Saturday, March 28, 2020 • 11:00 am -1:00 pm

Sponsored by the L.I.F.E. Mission, a collaboration of women from local United Methodists Churches in Mesquite and Sunnyvale.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Benefit

**Luncheon Location:**  
First United Methodist Church  
Family Life Center Bldg.  
300 N. Galloway Ave.  
Mesquite, TX 75149

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

L.I.F.E Mission  
(Lunch Is For Everybody)



TICKETS AT  
EVENTBRITE \$15

(+online convenience fee)

- Lunch & Dessert
- Speaker and Q&A
- Door-prizes
- Silent Auction

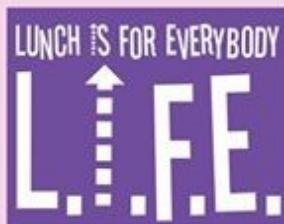
Auction and door-prize donations, as well as Individual and Corporate Sponsorships are accepted and greatly appreciated.



Melissa Prycer is the President and Executive Director at Dallas Heritage Village. As a respected and admired historian, she has published book reviews and articles, primarily on women's history and children's literature. She will be speaking on Women's Suffrage in Texas.

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Proceeds from the auction and love offering go to help ensure that a hot lunch is provided to children in the local elementary schools, who would not otherwise receive one. Your support is greatly appreciated.



For tickets, information, to volunteer, or donate, please contact Valerie Palmer 214-212-4983 or Penny Holliday 972-533-2461  
Organized by a committee of women from First UMC Mesquite, St. Mark's UMC, & New Covenant UMC

# Mom's Irish Stew

PREP TIME: 20 mins | COOK TIME: 2 hours | TOTAL TIME: 2 hours 20 minutes

From <https://bluebowlrecipes.com/moms-irish-stew/>

## Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 to 2 lbs lamb or beef stew meat fat trimmed
- 2 TBS flour (*can sub a gluten-free flour blend*)
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced or diced
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 4 large carrots, peeled and sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3-4 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp thyme, divided
- 1 and 1/4 - 2 cups beef broth



## Instructions:

- **Prep:** Spray your Dutch oven with non-stick spray (mine is non-stick but I just wanted to be safe). Don't preheat the oven.
- **Make the stew:** Cut all your veggies, as noted above in the ingredients. Mix together in a bowl and add the garlic. Toss the meat with the flour, some salt and pepper to taste, and 1/2 tsp of thyme in a bowl. Add 1/3 of the meat to the bottom of the Dutch oven, then 1/3 of the veggie mixture. Alternate this with the remaining meat and veggies. (The layers don't need to be perfect here!) Add the spices and beef broth.
- **Bake:** Place the covered Dutch oven in a cold oven. Set the temperature to 425 degrees. Bake for about 1.5 - 2 hours, stirring at the hour mark (see note, below, and photos above for reference!). Taste, and add extra seasoning if desired.

Enjoy warm with soda bread!

Store leftovers in an airtight container in the fridge for about a week.

### Recipe Notes:

**NOTE:** If you sub a gluten-free flour here, I don't recommend almond or coconut flour. Try a gluten-free flour blend that you use and trust.

**NOTE:** I've gone all the way up to 2.5 lbs of meat here without increasing the other ingredients (well, I did add an extra tbsp flour) - so feel free to increase the meat or any of the veggie quantities if desired!

**NOTE:** I think that the baking dish you use and your oven (they're all a little different) can affect cooking time. Make sure to set your timer for only one hour to begin - and when you stir the stew at the hour mark you can see how much longer it really needs to cook. Pierce the veggies + potatoes with a fork - if they're tender, it's likely done! The meat will be fork tender, too, when done, and the broth will have thickened up a bit.