



the **NEW COVENANT**

Window

Keeping you in the know!

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Sharing God through love and service.

A Time to Reflect



It is time for Lent...but it seems like we were just here!! We were in Lent 2020 when our collective world turned upside down and we began scrambling to figure out how we could continue to be together for worship, classes, social time, and even meetings. And you know what? We have figured it out. Is it perfect? Well, no, but then nothing is. Still, we have learned to adjust (quickly when necessary) and that we are far more capable than we thought. If someone had proposed a Zoom meeting this time last year, most of us would have said that was just too techie for us. But here we are...worship live streamed (and totally from homes when necessary), Bible study and meetings in Zoom (with most not wanting to return to the 'old way'), even Water to Wine via Zoom brings us together for a bit of social time each month.

Out of the necessity of being relevant in an online world of worship, we have gone beautiful places with little kicking and screaming. Even when we return to in person worship, no one thinks we need to give up the online component. That means that our worship will continue to evolve as our world continues changing. The ways that we are seeking to develop reminders of worship and staying connected to God throughout the week are especially meaningful to me. I know that everyone doesn't participate in everything that we offer. I don't even expect it. But every opportunity is meaningful to someone...so we're fulfilling our purpose as church.

Lent will be another time of high participation and involvement. I REALLY hope you will open and read the email that I will be sending out on Monday...read the whole thing. It will be long. But it will outline the details of the many ways to be involved and to participate actively during Lent. You will also receive a mailing, but there will be many links in the email to resources that you may want to have on hand as we journey together that won't come through the mail. We will have a ritual action in each service... starting with Ash Wednesday. You will want to have a bit of dirt or sand (from your yard will be fine), a candle, a match or lighter, and a bit of water. Curious yet? The email will have details for each service. There will be an opportunity to sit and pray in the sanctuary...I know you miss it! And our Holy Week services are going to be very special. We will also have a Lenten study on Thursday nights...by Zoom, of course.

I hope I've given you just enough to make you hungry for more...so you'll read the whole email on Monday. Sunday we will wrap up our series "God is Holding Your Life" and remember that God never drops us. Lent will be a season of recovery as we move closer to healing what has been broken, making whole what has been diminished. You won't want to miss "Holy Vessels" starting this Wednesday. So stay tuned....

May the peace of Christ be yours,

Pastor Dana

Tuesday's at 7:00 pm
Via Zoom
Meeting ID:
861 3989 2668



Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross

Thursday's in Lent beginning
February 18th at 7:00 pm
Via Zoom
Meeting ID: 813 2390 6831

Books for this study not required, but can be purchased here:
<https://www.cokesbury.com/Seven-Words-2?refq=seven%20words>



5	Barbara Anderson	5	Kylie Tacker
19	Phyllis Polston	19	Patricia Gbaya
24	Verna Smith	26	Susan Kovan





Contribution statements were mailed at the beginning of January. Please contact Barbara in the church office if you did not receive yours or have any questions.

New Covenant UMC Finance Moment		
December Income:	\$34,689.99	(↑ 53% vs. 2019)
December Expenses:	<u>\$33,809.63</u>	(\$14,614 under budget)
Difference:	\$ 880.36	
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Income Total 2020:	\$216,396.73	(↓ 9% vs. 2019)
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Apportionments Paid To Date 2020:	\$ 19,367.00	<u>\$19,367.00 Total Due</u> PAID IN FULL

New Covenant UMC Finance Moment		
January Income:	\$23,530.24	(↑ 6% vs. 2020)
January Expenses:	<u>\$16,071.19</u>	(\$6,802 under budget)
Difference:	\$ 7,459.05	
<hr/>		
Income Total 2021 YTD:	\$23,530.24	(↑ 6% vs. 2020)
<hr/>		
Apportionments Paid To Date 2021:	\$ 3,100.00	<u>\$17,643.00 Total Due</u> \$14,543 Outstanding

Beginning in February 2021, we will begin paying 10% of our income towards apportionments. We already have \$750.00 set aside from contributions in December.

We received several videos of current and former choir members as well as relatives/friends of choir members to participate in our virtual choir. That video is being processed and will be seen in the future.

I spent quite a bit of November and most of December either sick or in quarantine so I want to offer my sincere thanks to all who covered the music while I was out. Dana, Cathy and Diane covered the planning and Naomi and Anna covered the vocals. We had an amazing Advent and Christmas Eve. I was delighted to be able to participate in that lovely service and look forward to upcoming planning for Lent.



Thanks to all who so generously gave over the Christmas season.

Austin Street -- New Covenant provided 190 residents with a good breakfast of cereal with milk, peaches, yogurt, snack crackers and muffins under coordination of Kathy Rogers. The church donated toiletries, adult pull-ups, blankets, coats, shoes and socks and other men's and women's clothes. Church members also provided a needy family of mom and 3 kids with clothes and toys.



Ewing House -- Generous church members donated items for 30 gift bags of toiletry items and gift cards for the annual Christmas Eve brunch. Kathleen Skelton and Linda and Walter Easton delivered these items along with Christmas brunch items to Ewing House. Thanks to Barbara Reed, an online sign-up sheet through Mail Chimp worked very successfully.

Waterford at Mesquite -- Linda and Walter Easton generously continued a New Covenant Christmas tradition at the Waterford compiling and delivering 15 Christmas gift bags to residents in need.

Yarnbirds -- Last year the Yarnbirds donated 207 kids blankets to Genesis Women's Shelter and Support, 8 lapghans and 4 wraps to The Waterford at Mesquite, 3 lapghans and 4 wraps to Long Creek Senior Living, and 1 afghan to Elyse, Pastor Reid Fade's granddaughter. This amazingly productive group consists of Diane Duckworth, Linda Dunn, Susan Kovan, Marcia Matus, and Maggie Miller.

New possibilities

- ◇ Kathy Rogers is investigating help needed by Sunnyvale Schools to provide snacks for children for the weekends.
- ◇ Pastor Dana is looking into scheduling a blood drive through the Red Cross at the church.
- ◇ Linda Dunn would like to revive a card ministry for members who are shut-in/elderly.

On a somber note, Mesquite Social Services shut down last month due to lack of resources.

John Elfers



Turned in claim for hail damage on roof and it has been totaled. There is a very large deductible. Walk-way flat roof not covered by hail damage. Getting estimates on how much that will cost to replace.

Spring cleaning scheduled for March 20th at 8:00 am.

1Thessalonians 5:16-18

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Hello New Covenant!

We are about to begin the season of Lent. It is the season that *is* the story for the foundation of our belief. We will follow the journey of Jesus for 40 days with the knowledge that He is Risen! And many will make some commitment that will have them give up something or add something to their routine for Lent. Something that will help them to connect with the story of Jesus on a more personal and intimate level.

In 2017 a group of members began meeting in person for prayer. New Covenant has always been a praying church, but at this time in the history of our church, conducted shared prayers through email, much like we do today. So, this small group of individuals decided to meet weekly, in person, for prayer. A former member, Jane Traugott, wrote the below article (edited) for the newsletter inviting others to join as well as naming our group. The "Pray It Forward" group was formed.

If you have not made a commitment for Lent, I would like you to consider adding some prayer time to each day. Pray that we might more fully experience the story of Jesus. Pray that we may be one in Christ. Ask for the healing of our church, our community, our nation, and our world. I can think of nothing more powerful than our members praying together through Lent; becoming one body even though we are apart.

I miss you all and continue to thank God for each of you. Until we meet again!
~Cindy Wolfe

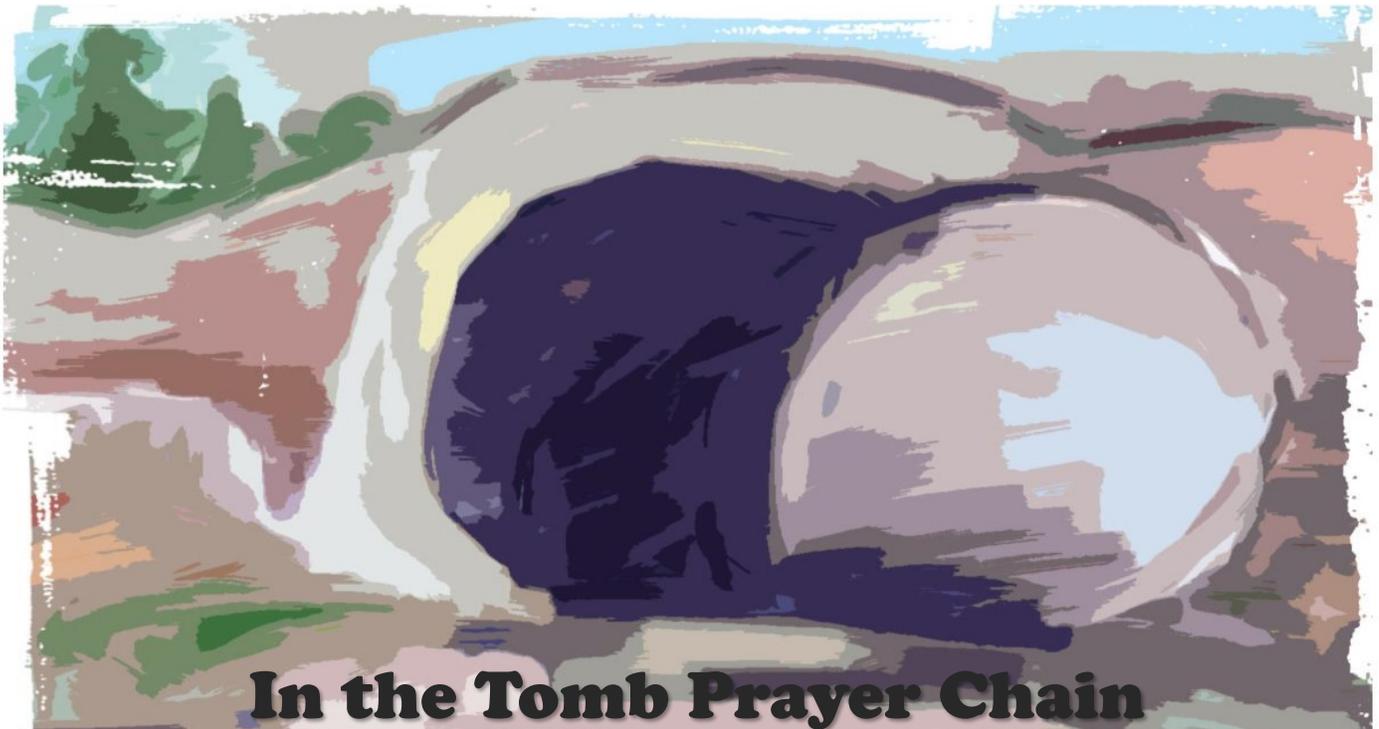
In First Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 17, the Apostle Paul encourages the members of the church in Thessalonica to pray without ceasing. As I read that verse I thought what in the world was Paul talking about. Who can pray without ceasing? Is that even possible? I know sometimes when I am praying I get so distracted by what's going on in my mind, I can't even concentrate on what's happening in the present much less in the future.

Then I remembered a movie I saw many years ago. In the movie an 8th grade social studies teacher challenges his students to create, invent, or come up with an idea that could change the world as we know it. What a wonderful concept. Anyway in the movie one of the students comes up with the idea of doing a random act of kindness for a stranger in hopes that person will do a random act of kindness for someone else and so on and so on. You get the idea. The movie was called "Pay it Forward."

So I thought that must have been what Paul was talking about. If our prayer group prays for our church, the church universal, the nation, and the world, maybe just maybe someone will in turn pray for someone else and so on and so forth. We can "PRAY it Forward" and maybe just change the world!

There is a powerful spirit in Praying it Forward. Join us if God is speaking to you about prayer in your life..

~Jane Traugott



In the Tomb Prayer Chain

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.¹

This season following our Tenebrae service on Friday, April 2nd 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. We will pray from home or wherever we are.

Life this past year has been full of pain and suffering for many, we have been isolated and separated from loved ones. I do not remember a more unsettling time in my life than now. And although we will not be together physically, this is an opportunity to join as one body in prayer for God's will, plan, and purpose for New Covenant UMC.

Please consider what hour you would like to serve in prayer. Barbara has created a sign up at the following link <https://signup.com/go/bVLMOYu>. If you are unable to reach that link, please call and specify what time you would like. AND although there are 35 spots on our list, that does not restrict us to 35 participants. I would love to see more than one name an hour.....wouldn't that be grand!! So, feel free to invite friends and family members to join us. God loves to hear from His children.

Cindy Wolfe and The Pray It Forward Team

Maytag9713@sbcglobal.net

214-315-9992

¹ <https://www.thoughtco.com/holy-saturday-541563>

FRENCH ONION PORK CHOPS

Submitted by: Linda Easton

Ingredients:

- 6 boneless pork chops (1-1/2 lb.), 1/2 inch thick
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 2 Tbsp. LEA & PERRINS Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) STOVE TOP Stuffing Mix for Chicken
- 1-1/2 cups hot water

Instructions:

- Cook chops and onions in large nonstick skillet on medium-high heat 8 min., turning chops and stirring onions after 4 min. (Chops will not be done.) Remove chops from skillet.
- Cook onions additional 5 min. or until golden brown, stirring frequently. Stir in Worcestershire sauce. Return chops to skillet; spoon onion mixture over chops. Cook chops and onions in large nonstick skillet on medium-high heat 8 min., turning chops and stirring onions after 4 min. (Chops will not be done.) Remove chops from skillet.
- Cook onions additional 5 min. or until golden brown, stirring frequently. Stir in Worcestershire sauce. Return chops to skillet; spoon onion mixture over chops.



LIVE STREAM
SUNDAYS @ 9:00 AM
WORSHIP TOGETHER

facebook.com/NCUMCSunnyvale OR
www.newcovenantumc.com

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 www.newcovenantumc.com

New Covenant United Methodist Church
3032 Beltline Road
Sunnyvale, Texas 75182
972-226-1092

 [@NCUMCSunnyvale](https://twitter.com/NCUMCSunnyvale)

 office@newcovenantumc.com