

HOLY HAPPENINGS

Holy Covenant United Methodist Church

September 2011

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Wednesday Night Encounter

Fall 2011 Kick-Off

September 7th - 5:45 PM

Come dressed in your favorite camouflage, patriotic, or military attire, as we Support the Troops and our new Ministry for the Military. We are asking everyone to dress in camo, red/white/blue, or other military attire. The meal will be Chick-fil-a sandwiches, nuggets and strips, along with a salad, and a big cake. \$3/person, or \$12/family. We will be collecting donations for the Military Ministry: shoe boxes or small boxes, small snack items like Granola bars, breakfast bars, chewing gum, toiletry items like toothpaste, tooth brushes, floss, wet wipes, small books of crossword puzzles, pocket crosses, & postage stamps. The activities will be minimal; coloring pages for the kids, flag folding, prop for photos, etc.

Schedule and classes offered on page 6

Song of Zoe: Youth Choir Mystery Retreat



Retreat and Concert
For youth grades 6-12
September 2-5

Home Concert:
September 5 - 5:00 p.m.
In the Chapel

Covenant Connection:

A four week new member class to help you connect with HCUMC.

Connecting → Church → Campus → Committees

Starting September 11th at 9:45 in The Gathering Place.



CDC Classes Begin,

September 6th

Spots are still available for the 2011-2012 school year in the Child Development Center.

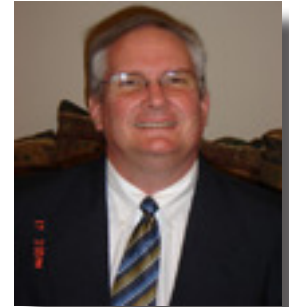
9/11/11 COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

To commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11, we will be honoring first responders: firemen, police officers, paramedics, EMTs...during both the 8:30am and 11:00am worship services.

Come in your uniform and receive a free breakfast.

A Word From Jay

I want to share a funny experience from last week. One of our choir members posted on the choir's Facebook page that she might miss practice this coming week due to her boss making her work that evening due to "Back to School" activity at the store where she works. The humor comes from the fact that her boss making her work is also her husband. I decided to be funny and post a comment, "You need a better boss...lol". Of course this started a firestorm of other comments on the choir's page regarding her boss (in jest) and her work conflict. Finally, the choir member's husband had to post how he had gotten an "earful" from folks and offering his hope to let his wife off early to get to practice if at all possible. He concluded by pleading for "mercy" from the crowd.



I did not share this story to further condemn or embarrass the folks involved, but rather to point to some profound truths. The first profound truth is that the world provides many obstacles to activity in the life of the faith community. We are all finding our schedules more challenging...heightened work requirements, various social pulls, increasing distance from family, and greater opportunities for other activities all pull at us and hinder us from presence and participation in the life of the faith community. The second profound truth attests to the power of influence exerted by our encouragement and concern. The supportive pressure created by folks who "reach out" can make the difference between disconnection and connection. It creates an environment where new possibilities are created, rather than the forces of inertia maintain the status quo. The third profound truth is that God's mercy is never ceasing. That mercy is to extend through the people of God as something precious to be given and not just desired to be received.

I hope and pray that everyone who is part of Holy Covenant feels the warm embrace of God and the people of God who make up this church family. I pray that each member of this family feels the warm embrace of encouragement, the sincere gracious influence that helps us to overcome our impediments and the forces of inertia that can so easily take hold of our lives, and the sweet, steadfast mercy of God through Jesus Christ that offers forgiveness and welcome to all who turn to God.

Our church is gearing up for an exciting new season. We have had around 30 participants in ENTRY POINT, who are seeking to learn more about the faith and prepare for greater journeys into discipleship in Jesus Christ. We have an exciting line-up of opportunities at Wednesday Night Encounter for fellowship, worship, and spiritual growth starting on September 7th. This year, our confirmation class will meet on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year. A new Sanctuary Class will begin on September 11th that will be led by the pastors dealing deeper with the passages from worship each Sunday (great for those wanting to begin a process of intentional Bible Study and deepen their understanding of what is preached each Sunday). A new orientation class, COVENANT CONNECTION, will follow on the heels of ENTRY POINT. This class will be led by Bill Oglesby in The Gathering Place for four weeks, starting September 11th. All of these opportunities and more are designed to offer encouragement and assistance to a life of greater connection and discipleship in Jesus Christ. I hope you will come and encourage someone else to join you in these great opportunities.

See you on Sunday (and soon on Wednesday evenings)!

Grace and Peace,
Jay

Be Teachable

Our Sunday School class is studying Adam Hamilton's book, *When Christians Get it Wrong*. This study addresses the ways that people outside of the Christian tradition view the Church and Christians. In a recent Sunday School discussion about the chapter called, "Christians, Science and Politics," Hamilton writes that when Christians get it wrong in relating to others is when we are closed-minded. He says that Christians get it right when we are teachable.

This September begins an opportunity for us to become more teachable. During Wednesday Night Encounter (beginning September 7th at 5:45pm), we each have the chance to participate in the community life of our congregation as we learn together. When we gather together around dinner, worship, and Scripture, we are free to be molded by God through one another. Wednesday nights are my favorite time in the life of our church. I hope that you will join me in spending time together to learn more about who God calls us to be. I am leading a class about Genesis, and I am hoping that we will be a time when we start *In the Beginning...* and remember that God created us to be in God's image. There are a number of other opportunities to learn about God and one another together on Wednesday nights this fall. Come on Wednesdays. Let's be teachable together.



Peace,
Stephanie

A Word from Rev. J. Kabamba Kiboko, Ph.D.,

I just celebrated my two months at Holy Covenant UMC. What a blessing it has been to journey with many of you as we continue to spend some time together in the new class: Entry-Point Confirmation Class during Sunday school hour (see flyer). It is my hope that, thus far through this class, we understand that we are GOD'S.

With that in mind, as we move toward the end of this short-term class, I am already looking with anticipation to the next class I will teach "DISCIPLE I." As GOD'S, let us come together and embark on the Great Journey of Faith during which we will learn about how to become disciples through studying the Holy Scripture. I am looking forward to the great journey of faith.



Shalom,
Kabamba

Children's Sunday School:

Wednesday Night Encounter

Parents please register your children for Wednesday Night Encounter. Registration is important in order for the Children's Ministry team to plan for them.

The Schedule for elementary age children is as follows:

6:15: the Game Room or Playground will open

7:00: Music Encounter for Kids

7:00-8:00 Bible study

Child Care for preschool age children will begin at 6:15. Children ages 3 & 4 will have Bible lessons beginning at 7:00 p.m.

3rd Grade Bibles

The third graders will receive Bibles from the church during a special service on Sunday, September 18 during the 11:00 service. Be sure you return the form to Miss Amy prior to the 18th.



Parents Morning Out

Parents will be offered the opportunity to have a morning out while their children enjoy fun and fellowship at the church. If you are interested in participating, on Saturday, September 10 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. contact Judy Koehn for a reservation.

Church Wide Mission Day

The children will be participating in the Church Wide Mission day on September 17. The 4th and 5th grade classes will be going to Grace Care Center to play Bingo with the residents. The younger children will be participating in activities at the church. Registration forms will be available at the Sunday school check in desk.

Youth

ATTENTION ALL 6th graders: IMPORTANT CONFIRMATION CLASS INFORMATION

Confirmation Class will be meeting on Wednesday Nights 6:30pm - 8pm and our Parent and Confirmand meeting will be on Wednesday, September 7th, 2011 @ 7:07 in Room 208

YOUTH CHOIR RETREAT - Friday, September 2nd - Monday, September 5th. ???MYSTERY RETREAT???

ALL CHURCH MISSION DAY, September 17th, 2011. YOUTH MEET @ HCUMC at 8am for breakfast & devotional. We will leave for our project at 9:00am.

YOUTH SUNDAY, September 18th, 2011 - Please look for sign up sheets on Sunday mornings in your classrooms or [click here](#) if you are interested in participating.

TRY THIS...

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to -work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:1-2, The Message

Wednesday Night Encounter

(Fall Session begins September 7.)

Encounter Fellowship – 5:45 Encounter Worship – 6:30 Encounter Classes – 7:00

Classes and studies available for adults will include:

Disciple Bible Study I (Kabamba Kiboko)

The study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. DISCIPLE draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible.

Disciple Bible Study II (Jim Godfrey)

The second study in the four-phase Disciple program. This study proclaims the transforming power of Scripture while teaching Bible study skills that take participants deeper into the Scripture. The importance of keeping Bible study related to witness is reinforced.

The Bible People Series: Disciples and Missionaries (Julia Oldham)

This study will help you discover information and insights about important figures in the Bible. Each of the sessions looks at a different Bible person and stimulates discussion about lessons to be learned from their stories.

Beth Moore Study – David: Seeking a Heart Like His (Laura Douglas)

This is a study of the life of David and how he often pleased and disappointed God. Through it all, God's promise to "never give up on you" resonates in David's story and still applies to us today.

In the Beginning: A Study of Genesis (Stephanie Lind)

Learn from the stories of God's covenant with humanity, as well as from humanity's responses to God. Even if you have heard all of the stories in Genesis before, come and spend some time reading these words again to learn how God might speak to us in new ways through the Word and each other.

Drop-In Bible Study (Tom Engelbert, Robert Houghton, Louis Murray)

Class will study and discuss weekly topics or stories on a "stand-alone basis". This class is designed for those who have trouble attending on a regular basis due to work, travel, or family conflicts in time. It is also a good choice for participants looking for more variety than the other classes.

Scrapbooking (Sharon Brown)

Come learn the basics or extend your expertise in this craft. Enjoy your time with this fun group of people, making memories while you learn how to preserve them.

**Rev. Boyd Baker will sell/autograph his book "A Pocket Full of Prayers" for \$10.00 during WNE kickoff.

Complete activities for Children's and Youth Ministries as well.

Childcare available for newborns-age 2

“Sing with me, and all will see...”

Do you recall what it felt like when you heard the “Star-Spangled Banner” shortly after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001? A song that was so common-place and well-known seemed different. It was suddenly more poignant than before and it evoked a sense of national unity and hope.

A similar phenomenon occurs when national anthems are sung at Olympic ceremonies. For a brief moment, our attention is turned away from a single athlete to an entire nation as we witness the pride of its people. We also witness this in the chants of oppressed groups, at home and abroad, who sing in the streets as a sign of their solidarity and resolve.

Music binds us together and helps create identity. So why do so many of us sit completely silent during corporate worship and refuse to utter a sound?

Perhaps we are too disconnected from the music making process. It is amazing that we live in a time where we can be anywhere and download nearly any song, instantly, for a buck! In the past decades, the more ubiquitous music consumption has become, the less the average person participates in music making of their own.

Perhaps you were told long ago told you that you couldn't sing. It could have been a parent or a teacher, who, in your moment of vulnerability, did you a complete disservice by criticizing the only musical instrument that you were born with. Surely, chances are that most of us will not get a recording contract any time soon. But, the overwhelming vast majority of people have the ability to successfully sing, and just like any sport or art form, it takes practice. Don't let what someone else told you, possibly decades ago, stop you from trying!

Heed these instructions from John Wesley: “Sing all. See that you join the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness of weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing.”

Singing is for women and it is for men. It is for boys and girls. It is for the young and the old. And, when we sing in worship, we are proclaiming to the world that we are united under a great God of love and grace. In the simple words of a popular modern worship song,

“Sing with me, ‘how great is our God’, and all will see how great is our God.”

So, sing with me! Open your mouth and give it your best shot, and maybe, just maybe, the world will catch a glimpse of what we're singing about.

Do you play an instrument?

If you play an instrument (band, orchestra, etc.) and would like to be a part of instrumental music for Sunday morning worship, please e-mail M.J. at mj@holycov.org!



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Rev. Stephanie Lind, Associate Pastor
Rev. Kabamba Kiboko, Associate Pastor

Meeting the needs of People With the
Power of Christ



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

Children’s Choir

Music Encounter for Kids, our children’s choir program for Kindergartners through 5th graders, begins on September 14, with information and registration on September 7 during Encounter kick-off. Music Encounter will be an exciting opportunity for kids to have fun making music and learning to be participants and leaders in worship.

Participants will be divided by grades:
Kindergartners and 1st graders: Alleluia Choir
2nd and 3rd graders: Hosanna Choir
4th and 5th graders: Maranatha Choir



Each group will participate in Sunday morning worship periodically throughout the coming months and on the Christmas concert on December 11.

Visit the website for more information on Music Encounter for Kids!



Sanctuary Sunday School class will begin 9/11, based on Scripture reference used in that Sundays’ worship service.



"Holy Covenant is forming a Men's Softball team for the coming Fall season. If you are interested in this great fellowship time please contact Jeff Hendry at jeff@holycov.org or his cell, 281-704-5481."

