



Our Vision: We are a large, dynamic, multicultural, intergenerational congregation growing in our relationship with one another and with Jesus Christ to be His hands, feet, and voice in the world.

Rev. Harold Hendren, Senior Pastor
 Rev. Jim Divine, Lake Deaton Pastor
 Rev. Kristyne Young, Pastor of Congregational Life
 Rev. Marilyn Anell, Visitation Pastor



The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word adventus meaning "coming" or "visit," begins this weekend! During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation, and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward to anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. We hope you will make special plans to attend our many opportunities for fellowship and worship during this special season!

- Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m. — Christian Life Center**
 - Hanging of the Greens and PeAr presentation of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*
- Sunday, December 10 at 5 p.m. — Chapel**
 - Service of Hope and Healing
- Sunday, December 17 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. — Christian Life Center**
 - Christmas at New Covenant: "Gloria"
- Saturday, December 23 at 5 p.m. — Christian Life Center**
 - Contemporary Christmas Worship with Holy Communion
- Sunday, December 24 at 8:30 and 10 a.m. — Christian Life Center**
 - Christmas Eve Sunday Morning Worship at the Summerhill Campus
- Sunday, December 24 at 8:30, 9:45 and 11 a.m. — Eisenhower Rec Center**
 - Christmas Eve Sunday Morning Worship at the Lake Deaton Campus
- Sunday, December 24 at 4:30 and 7 p.m. — Christian Life Center**
 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
- Thursday, January 4 and Friday, January 5 — Fellowship Center**
 - *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, presented by New Covenant, St. Timothy Catholic Community, and The Central Florida Lyric Opera

Our Purpose: To come to know the love of Christ and to make His love known to others for the transformation of the world

Your Scripture for this Week

	Genesis to Revelation	As events occurred Chronologically	New Testament	The Gospels
December 3	1 Corinthians 15-16	1 Corinthians 15-16	Sunday: No Reading	Luke 23
December 4	2 Corinthians 1-4	2 Corinthians 1-4	2 Peter 1:1-2:11	Luke 24
December 5	2 Corinthians 5-9	2 Corinthians 5-9	2 Peter 2:12-3:18	John 1
December 6	2 Corinthians 10-13	2 Corinthians 10-13	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 2
December 7	Galatians 1-3	Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3	1 John 2:3-17	John 3
December 8	Galatians 4-6	Romans 4-7	1 John 2:18-3:9	John 4
December 9	Ephesians 1-3	Romans 8-10	1 John 3:10-4:11	John 5
December 10	Ephesians 4-6	Romans 11-13	Sunday: No Reading	John 6

When he came to his hometown, he taught the people in their synagogue. They were surprised and said, "Where did he get this wisdom? Where did he get the power to work miracles? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother named Mary? Aren't James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas his brothers? And his sisters, aren't they here with us? Where did this man get all this?" (Matthew 13:54-56)

As we begin this Advent season, help us to be in tune with "the message" within the Christmas Carols we sing. Help us to practice random acts of kindness towards our neighbors. Help us to be generous and live into being a "blessing" toward others. Help us hold true to the beauty and meaning found in this season of love, hope, joy, and peace. In the Holy name of the One who is the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

REMINDER: Please take your weekly bulletin home as you leave today. Use it as a prayer guide for the scheduled activities and the ministries of our church.

Sunday Christian Education Classes			
7:45 a.m.	Early Risers	The Lord's Prayer: Connecting with God	Chapel
9:15 a.m.	Childcare	Children ages newborn to 5 years old	Children's Room
9:15 a.m.	Faith Bible Class	Psalms +	Classroom 2
9:15 a.m.	Pathfinders Class	Joshua	Classroom 11
9:15 a.m.	Faith Finders	The Lord's Prayer: Connecting with God	Classrooms 6/7
9:15 a.m.	ANEW	Faith in Action	Chapel
10:30 a.m.	FaithLink	Finding Hope	Classroom 14
10:30 a.m.	The Searchers	The Lord's Prayer: Connecting with God	Classrooms 6/7
10:30 a.m.	Spirited Singles	Christian group discussion	Classroom 3
10:45 a.m.	Wesley Class	Joshua	Classroom 11

All Sunday school classes for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve have been canceled.

New Covenant United Methodist Church

Summerhill Contemporary Worship 3470 Woodridge Dr. • The Villages, FL 32162
 Saturday 5:00 p.m. Phone: 352-750-4529

Summerhill Blended Worship
 Sunday 7:45 • 9:15 • 10:45 a.m. Fax: 352-259-2971

Summerhill Children's Orchard Worship
 Sunday 10:45 a.m. (Classroom 1) Email: ncumc@newcovenantumc-fl.org

Lake Deaton Worship (Eisenhower Rec Center)
 Sunday 8:30 • 9:45 • 11:00 a.m. Website: www.newcovenantumc-fl.org

New Covenant United Methodist Church ~
 A Place to Call Home Facebook:

♿ Accessible

Worship Attendance for last week: 2,139
 (Celebrate Recovery) 45 • (Fresh Expressions) 25 • (Orchard Worship) 10
 (Saturday Contemporary) 217 • (Sunday Summerhill) 7:45-201 • 9:15-718 • 10:45-520
 (Sunday Lake Deaton) 8:30-155 • 9:45-150 • 11:00-98



Altar Flowers

The Altar flowers have been provided by Pat & Dick Gable in memory of Olive & Samuel Gable.



Communion Assistance Needed

If you are available to assist with preparing the communion elements or serving communion on the first Sunday of each month, please contact Jill or Lesan Van Syckle at (352) 751-7447 for more details or to sign-up.



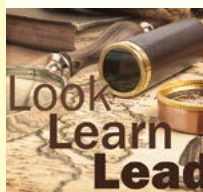
Christmas Ushers

If you are available to serve as an usher for the Christmas at New Covenant concerts on December 17 at 3 or 7 p.m. or at the Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 and 7 p.m., please contact Lou Emmert at jdemmert@embarqmail.com. Thank you for supporting this ministry.



Christmas at New Covenant — SOLD OUT

If you have tickets for the concerts that you will not be able to use, please return those to the Connecting Ministry kiosk in the East Narthex before Worship Services, or to the Administration Office during normal business hours. Thank You!



Look, Learn, Lead Study Guides

Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph

If you would like a "Look, Learn, Lead" study guide, they are available at the Welcome Center, a kiosk, and a table in the East Narthex, as well as on our website under the "Worship" button, "Sermon Series."



30 Hours of Famine

Saturday & Sunday, January 13 & 14 — East and West Narthexes

New Covenant's Youth Ministry will be going hungry for a cause! For 30 hours straight, volunteers and youth group members will fast to fight world hunger. You can also play a proactive part in this weekend-long initiative by generously donating towards the famine. The youth will be accepting donations between weekend Worship Services.

World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization, create this Christ-centered initiative, to teaming with youth, families, and communities to tackle the causes of poverty and world hunger. By participating in engaging activities, compelling discussion, and local outreach, the youth grow closer to Christ while raising funds to make a real difference. This New Year, help us to give back to those who need us most, and let's feed children across the world!



"SuperStart" for Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Graders!

Friday & Saturday, January 26 & 27 — Orlando, Florida

Get excited for the awesome overnight, high-energy event where pre-teens learn and grow in their relationships with friends, leaders, and most importantly, God. Registration is open, but availability is limited!

For cost and other trip details, please contact Brianna Jimenez, Children's Minister, at bjimenez@newcovenantumc-fl.org or Kayla McIntosh, Youth Minister, at kmcintosh@newcovenantumc-fl.org.

Outreach Ministry



Giving in the Spirit — REMINDER

Please complete the form on the inside back cover of the catalog and insert it, along with your donation, in the envelope provided in your book. Then place the envelope in the collection plate during Worship Services. The deadline to return your form is December 10.

If you did not receive a booklet, you can pick one up at the Welcome Centers. If you have any questions, please call coordinators Mary and Henry Goldberg at (352) 751-7687.



Gleaning Oranges in the Orlando Area

Saturday, December 9 — West Parking Lot

We will meet at the church by 7 a.m. and leave in the church bus at 7:15 a.m. If you can join us, please contact Leon Schien at leonschien@gmail.com or (352) 245-6615.



Volunteers Needed for Kids Central

New Covenant partners with Kids Central, Inc. to help to create brighter futures for children and families in Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, Sumter counties, and Central Florida. The agency develops and manages a comprehensive, community-based, system-of-care for abused, neglected, and abandoned children and their families.

Kids Central is committed to promoting the welfare of expectant mothers, babies, children, families, and young adults through prevention services, in-home care, foster care, and adoption. Volunteers are needed at the corporate office in Wildwood (901 Industrial Drive, Suite 200, Wildwood; next to Russell Stovers Candy Shop) for the following positions:

- Education: Assist the Educational Liaison with follow-up on the education of school-aged children in care (3-4 hours a week or more, if desired)
- Resource Center: Sort incoming donations, organize Resource Center, fill resource requests (3-4 hours a week minimum or more, if desired)
- Front Desk: Answer phones, assist with mail (3-4 hours a week minimum or more, if desired)

For more information, please contact Shawanna Felton, Community Facilitator, at (352) 748-1354 or (352) 857-1358 or shawanna.felton@kidscentralinc.org.



The Wildwood Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is very grateful for the tremendous response to the recent food drive from the Summerhill and Lake Deaton campuses. Your donations of food and cash have really blessed us! In Florida 17% of adults and 26.7% of children are food insecure. Food insecurity is defined as limited access to a sufficient quantity of affordable nutritious food. Your efforts have helped to reduce those statistics in North Sumter County. Thanks to everyone who had a part in making it work.



Celebrate Recovery

Friday, December 8 at 5:45 p.m. — Wildwood UMC

ONE WEEK ONLY! Our meeting next week is moving to Wildwood. Celebrate Recovery is not just for those who struggle with chemical dependency, such as drugs or alcohol.

- Wildwood United Methodist Church: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- New Covenant United Methodist Church: Fridays at 5:45 p.m.

You do not have to face life's issues alone. For more information, please contact Jill Beck at jbeck@newcovenantumc-fl.org or (352) 750-4529.

Making connections



New Covenant Mugs

Your last chance to purchase your very own coffee mug! This special 2017 series mug is the same mug given to our first-time visitors. For a \$10 donation, you will receive your mug. In addition, you will also be supporting the hospitality shown to our first-time visitors.

Visit the kiosk in the East Narthex this weekend or next weekend to get your mug.



Discover New Covenant

December 9 & 10 following each Worship Service — Fellowship Center

We meet once a month following Worship Services. Visitors, nonmembers, and members are encouraged to attend to learn more about New Covenant. Get answers to questions about connecting to service opportunities, Bible studies, Connect Small Groups, and membership.

If you would like more information, please contact Kathy Hudak Yoakum at (352) 750-4529 or khudak@newcovenantumc-fl.org.



New Member Classes

Lake Deaton Campus: Sunday, February 11 from 12:15–1:45 p.m.

Summerhill Campus: Monday, February 12 from 6–7:30 p.m.

Did you know there are different types of church memberships? You may choose to retain your membership with another United Methodist Church (Affiliate membership), or church of another denomination (Associate membership), or Full membership.

Please pick up a New Member Registration form at the Welcome Center or contact Kathy Hudak Yoakum at khudak@newcovenantumc-fl.org or (352) 750-4529.

TidBits

Support **New Covenant** when you shop this holiday season

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at **amazon smile**

You shop. Amazon donates...
0.5 percent of the price from your eligible smile.amazon.com purchase



Staff Appreciation Love Offering

Christmas is fast approaching. It is our custom at this time to show appreciation to our pastors and staff for all the fine work they do. Your Staff Parish Relations Team has placed a "Thank You" Love Offering envelope in your bulletin. Thank you for remembering those who work so lovingly for you all year long.

Please place your envelope in the offering plate or take to the office by Monday, December 11. A check may be made payable to NCUMC with "Staff Gift" on the memo line. The total amount received will be divided equally among all the staff members.

Because We Care... Congregational Care Ministries



Christmas at Prime Time!

Thursday, December 7 from 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m. — Fellowship Center
All seniors in the "prime" of their life are welcome to join the Prime Timers for their Christmas Party. Pastor Gary Cantrell will lead the devotional and communion for everyone.

Our program will be followed by a time of fellowship and lunch. Lunch is \$6 payable at the door. To make a reservation, please call the office at (352) 750-4529 by Monday, December 4 and indicate if you need transportation.



Service of Hope and Healing — Save the Date

Sunday, December 10 at 5 p.m. — Chapel

This annual service gives those who recently experienced grief to reflect on their loved one, on God's goodness and grace, and the Christmas holiday. We welcome you to this contemplative service to pray for God's peace to surround you and to comfort you.



Flower Ministry

We are in need of volunteers to break down the altar flower arrangements from Worship Services on Sundays, and deliver to specified recipients. This is a very simple ministry, but gives a great amount of joy to those who need a bit of cheer. We need people willing to be part of a rotation so that no one gets over-worked. We also need those willing to be substitutes.

For more information, please call the Congregational Care office at (352) 750-4529.



Congregational Health Team

We need people who have a medical background or just a desire to live life to the fullest health! We would love to have you join us as we work to live healthy lives! This team plans and sponsors the Health Education Speaker Series, Running of the Squares, Yoga, and so much more!

For more information, please contact Karen Hughest at twofortydesign@yahoo.com, or the Congregational Care office at (352) 750-4529.



The Gift of Prayer

The prayer quilts on the altar rail are for: Sheryl Koster for her unborn child with a mass in its chest; Veronica Polson who has congestive heart failure; Roberta Cook who lost a companion; Louise Murk who has a brain tumor; and the Fogel family who lost a mother and grandmother. Prayers are requested for peace, comfort, hope, and healing.

Our Christian Love and Sympathy are Extended to...

Judy Menefee, family and friends on the passing of her husband Blaine; Annamay Baldwin, family and friends on the passing of her husband Bill; Phyllis London, family and friends on the passing of her husband Loye; and Addie Romano, family and friends on the passing of her son-in-law Jim Stenstrom.

For dates and locations of memorial services, please check our website: www.newcovenantumc-fl.org.

New Concerns

Robin Aiken, Al Allmen, Patrick Antrim, John Beam, Richard Bond, Chuck Bowgren, Scott & Karen Clemens, Georgia Klupal, Coleen Marchese, Bill Privider, Donn Poole, Kayle Llewellyn, Nancy Oberle, Galen Ullmer, Ann Van De Veer, Dean Wadd