

TidBits



Today's Altar Flowers are Provided by...

Bob & Jan Thompson in celebration of his mother Pauline (Polly) Grant Thompson for her 101st birthday.



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 12. 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.



Solo Flight Singles Ministry December Gathering

Friday, December 16 at 4:30 p.m. — Chapel

All Singles are invited to share in worship and fellowship with a special Christmas Music presentation. Please join us for our monthly meeting on the third Friday of the month.



New Member Classes

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.

Monday, January 30 from 6–8 p.m. — Worship Center (coffee & cookies provided)

You may join the church the following weekend, February 4/5. Please pick up and fill out a New Member Registration form today. They may be found at the Connections Ministry kiosk in the Narthex, at the Welcome Center, or contact Kathy Hudak Yoakum at khudak@newcovenantumc-fl.org or (352) 750-4529.



Getting Connected — Connectional Ministry

Discover New Covenant! Whether you are new to our congregation or a long-time member, visit the Connectional Ministry kiosk in the Summerhill Narthex and find out how to get connected — to a caring community, to service, or to membership.

We are located next to the double doors in the East Narthex (by the cookies!)



Evangelism Yard Signs

"It Took a MIRACLE... Jesus!"

Christmas signs are available between Worship Services at the kiosk in the East Narthex this weekend for a suggested donation of \$5. They are also available in the Administration Office.

Lake Deaton New Construction Update

So far we have received \$1,382,206 in pledges.

Thank you for your support as we continue to grow our church and Christ's Kingdom!

Your Scripture for this Week

	Genesis to Revelation	As events occurred Chronologically	New Testament	The Gospels
December 11	Philippians 1-4	Romans 14-16	Sunday: No Reading	John 7
December 12	Colossians 1-4	Acts 20:4-23:35	2 John	John 8
December 13	1 Thessalonians 1-5	Acts 24-26	3 John	John 9
December 14	2 Thessalonians 1-3	Acts 27-28	Jude	John 10
December 15	1 Timothy 1-6	Colossians & Philemon	Revelations 1:1–2:7	John 11
December 16	2 Timothy 1-4	Ephesians	Revelations 2:8–3:6	John 12
December 17	Titus – Philemon	Philippians 1-4	Revelations 3:7–4:11	John 13
December 18	Hebrews 1-6	1 Timothy	Sunday: No Reading	John 14

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

Lord, the words, "Go tell it on the mountain that [YOU] Jesus Christ is born," sing a tune in our hearts. Let us not just sing the words to ourselves, but let us go and tell them so others might know that you are real — Emmanuel — God with us! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Saturday Christian Education Classes

3:45 p.m.	Wired Word	Christian group discussion based on current topics	Classroom 2
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Sunday Christian Education Classes

7:45 a.m.	Early Risers	1 Peter: Living God's Way	Chapel
9:15 a.m.	Childcare	Children ages birth to 5 years old	Nursery
9:15 a.m.	Faith Bible Class	Come Ye Thankful People, Come	Classroom 2
9:15 a.m.	Pathfinders Class	Advent — The Whole Story	Classroom 11
9:15 a.m.	Faith Finders	1 Peter: Living God's Way	Classrooms 6/7
9:15 a.m.	ANEW	The Savior Has Been Born	Chapel
10:30 a.m.	FaithLink	A Season of Praise	Classroom 14
10:30 a.m.	The Searchers	1 Peter: Living God's Way	Classrooms 6/7
10:45 a.m.	Wesley Class	Advent — The Whole Story	Classroom 11

New Covenant United Methodist Church

Contemporary Worship
Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Blended Worship
Sunday 7:45 • 9:15 • 10:45 a.m.

Children's Orchard Worship
Sunday 10:45 a.m. (Classroom 1)

Lake Deaton Worship (Eisenhower Rec Center)
Sunday 8:30 • 10:00 a.m.

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New Covenant United Methodist Church ~
A Place to Call Home

Worship attendance for last week: 2,398

(BEACH) 58 • (Roots) 16 • (Teen Twilight) 22 • (Celebrate Recovery) 87
(Fresh Expressions) 22 • (Orchard Worship) 16 • (Saturday Contemporary) 258
(Sunday Summerhill) 7:45–242 • 9:15–732 • 10:45–601
(Sunday Lake Deaton) 8:30–153 • 10:00–191



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



We are so grateful to serve a loving God who grieves with us as we journey through the seasons of loss and pain.

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 complete service and pray for God's peace to surround you and to comfort you. By combining special music, scripture, and also some personal reflections from others who have been where you are, we hope that you will walk away feeling as though your loved one was honored and celebrated as God is glorified. There is also a time to recognize your loved one by name and light a candle in their memory. Prayer warriors will be available to pray with you.

Sunday
December 11
3 p.m. • Chapel

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



Choralettes Christmas Around the World

Tuesday, December 13 at 6 p.m. — Worship Center

Directed by New Covenant's Janie Berry, join the Choralettes as they "travel around the world" in this musical presentation. Special guest appearance by the PeAr KIDS.

A Love Offering will be accepted to benefit Helping Hands Ministry.



Women's Ministry Monthly Gathering

Thursday, December 15 from 10–11:30 a.m. — Worship Center

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" Join us and hear the same jubilant message the angels announced on that Holy Night.

Lunch Tickets are \$6 (cash or check) or \$7.29 (credit card) and are available on our website at www.newcovenantumc-fl.org, or at the Ticket Kiosk in the West Narthex between Worship Services. "FREE" tickets are available for the program only. **Tickets sales conclude Monday, December 12 at noon.** No tickets (including the FREE, program-only tickets) will be available after the cut-off date.



The Lullaby of Broadway Encore Performance

Tuesday, January 17 at 7 p.m. — Christian Life Center

Back one more time! If you missed it last summer, come see our very own worship leaders Sean Pollock and Angie Wiswesser in an encore performance of their cabaret vocal and piano show.

It will feature duets with laughter and a fun time for all. Joining them will be special New Covenant friends Pat Smith and Brian Maderos, plus award-winning jazz artist Janice Swartz and The Villages' Maestro Bill Doherty at the piano.

Tickets: \$20 (cash or check) • \$21.99 (credit card)

Proceeds will benefit the Jean Kelly "Backpack 4 Kids" Ministry. Tickets are available on our website and at the Ticket Kiosk in the West Narthex between Worship Services.

Summerhill Campus

Christmas Eve Service • Saturday, December 24

4:30 and 7 p.m. • Christian Life Center

Jingle Jam Family Worship: "Put a Bow On It"

4:30 p.m. • Worship Center

Communion & Silent Meditation

5:30-6:30 p.m. • Chapel

Christmas Day Service • Sunday, December 25

10 a.m. • Christian Life Center

Lake Deaton Campus

Bonfire • Sunday, December 11

4:30 p.m. • The Lake Deaton Property

Christmas Eve Service • Saturday, December 24

5:30 p.m. • The Lake Deaton Property

Christmas Day Service • Sunday, December 25

10 a.m. • The Lake Deaton Property

The Lake Deaton Property is located on CR 44A — one mile east of Brownwood Paddock Square



Gleaning Oranges

Thursday, December 15 at 7:30 a.m. — West Narthex

Please meet us in the West Narthex to board the church bus to travel the short distance to the orange grove. We plan to return to the church by noon.

If you can join us, please contact Leon Schien at leonschien@gmail.com or (352) 245-6615.



Imagine Fresh Water...

Imagine only two fresh water wells from Ocala all the way to the southern coast of Florida. This is the reality in the Sankuru Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The province is 2/3 the size of Florida and there are currently only two wells to service 1.8 million people.

Imagine God smiling because His people at New Covenant have worked together to make a difference! Your missionaries Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Donna Baker and the Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership are very grateful for your generosity and your faith-filled response to God's call!

For more information about this project, please visit our website at <http://newcovenantumc-fl.org/congo-partnership/>



Wonderful Wednesday Dinner

December 14 at 4:30 p.m. — Worship Center

Please join us for our Christmas tradition of "Christmas Caroling with New Covenant JOY! Singers" at 5:45 p.m.

- **Tickets:** Wonderful Wednesday dinners are \$8 cash or check (\$9.39 credit card) per person. Tickets are available anytime **before noon on Monday, December 12**, between Worship Services at the Ticket Kiosk in the West Narthex, at each Wonderful Wednesday dinner (for the following week), and on our website.
- **Menu:** Minestrone Soup, Tossed Italian Garden Salad, Chicken Piccata, Gnocchi Alfredo, Italian Green Beans with shallot butter, Garlic Bread Sticks, and Tiramisu

Wonderful Wednesday dinners is taking a winter break. Plan ahead to join us when we return for a very special "Key West Dinner Theater" event on January 18. Dinner Theater tickets are \$12. Watch for details.



Connect with a Small Group

Tuesday, January 10 at 2 p.m. — Worship Center

Love God! Love Others! Together is Better! Are you interested in being part of a small group? New Covenant's Connect Small Group Team has the answer! You are invited to join us to find out more about our Connect Small Groups. Make a connection with others that are also looking to connect in small groups. We will help you find your Connect Small Group for our next sermon series, *Finding Joy in Real Life—5 Habits for Living Well*, beginning January 21/22.

Already connected in a small group? Stop in the Worship Center on Tuesday, January 10 at 4 p.m. to pick up your materials (a minimal cost) for the study. You will be provided with everything you need for your group to follow this five-week sermon series. For more information, please call Kathy Hudak Yoakum at (352) 750-4529.



Give the Life-Giving Gift of Blood

Monday, December 19 from 2-7 p.m. — West Narthex

We have a crisis need for blood donations. OneBlood will be in the West Narthex for registrations and the bus will be in the West Parking Lot. You must be age 16 and up, otherwise guardian permission will be required. A small gift will be given to those who donate.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist with the blood drive, please contact Barbara Hays at (352) 753-8877 or barbarachays@aol.com.



Prayer Vigil — A Special Day of Prayer

Tuesday, January 3, 12 a.m. –11:59 p.m. — Summerhill Prayer Room

Our focus will be the introduction to the new "Prayer Room" (the old Family Room in the Summerhill West Narthex next to the Worship Center), which should be completed by the end of the year. We are asking volunteers to sign up for one half-hour session to pray for New Covenant, our Conference, our congregation, and all who walk through our doors.

Those who sign up to pray from midnight to 7 a.m. or from 7 p.m. to midnight are not expected to pray here at the church. Those who sign up from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. will have the new Prayer Room available for their prayer session.

Sign up at the kiosk in the East Narthex this or next weekend. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Webb at (352) 750-4529.



Stephen Ministry Is Here for You

If you are in a crisis and could use some help from a trained, caring Christian friend, please consider requesting a Stephen Minister.

Please call the Care office at (352) 750-4529 to receive more information on this ministry and to receive this support. A Stephen Minister will walk with you through a crisis, listening and praying for you all the way.



Yoga at the Summerhill Campus

Mondays, December 12 and 19 — Chapel

We will **NOT** have class on December 26 or January 2. Classes will resume regular scheduling on January 9. Remember to bring your mat and plenty of water. A \$3 donation for Children's Ministry is appreciated.

- 4–5 p.m. — Intermediate Yoga/ West Coast Pilates
- 5–5:15 p.m. — Healthy Eating Talk
- 5:15–5:45 p.m. — Beginners Yoga

For more information, please email Karen Hughes at twofortydesign@hotmail.com.



The Gift of Prayer

The prayer quilts on the altar rail are for: Joan Barber who is in hospice; Heather Isaccson who has lymphoma and is undergoing chemo; and Linda Burgan who has had five back surgeries and is still unable to walk. Prayers are requested for peace, comfort, hope, and healing.

Our Christian Love and Sympathy are Extended to...

Janet and Allan Cragg, family and friends on the passing of her sister Marjorie Kiefer.

This Week's Prayer Concerns

Barbara & George Bickel, Joyce Crenshaw, Caroline Freeland, Mary Kay Giebelhaus, Ralph Hartke, Dawn Herman, Bob McBain, Moore Family, Rick, Joanne Wendel