



Christmas is the time of year that God shows His great love for us as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, Jesus, into the world.

- Wildwood Food Pantry:**
275,000+ lbs. food donated
- Christmas Shoe Boxes:**
1,330 boxes collected
- Christmas Wish Tree:**
450 children served
- Beds & Blankets:**
14 children served
- Children's Home Stocking Stuffers:** 125 children served
- Giving in the Spirit:**
\$ 47,800
- Christmas at New Covenant Love Offering:** \$11,871

New Covenant celebrates this season with great generosity. This lists the gifts from our church to those in need locally and around the world.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Love Offering will go towards a scholarship program for our Wildwood Middle High School Mentees. We currently have 47 eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders in our program who work with 47 volunteer Mentors from New Covenant and other community organizations. Our dream is that as our Mentees graduate, each will be given a scholarship of at least \$1,000 to be used towards continued education and training.

Please use the envelopes labeled "Christmas Offering" for this special gift accepted during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.



Your Scripture for this Week

	Genesis to Revelation	As events occurred Chronologically	New Testament	The Gospels
December 24	1 John 1	2 Timothy	Sunday: No Reading	John 20
December 25	2 John-Jude	2 Peter-Jude	Revelations 13:11-14:20	John 21
December 26	Revelations 1-3	1 John	Revelations 15-16	Acts 1
December 27	Revelations 4-8	2 & 3 John	Revelations 17:1-18:8	Acts 2
December 28	Revelations 9-12	Revelations 1-5	Revelations 18:9-19:10	Acts 3
December 29	Revelations 13-16	Revelations 6-11	Revelations 19:11-20:15	Acts 4
December 30	Revelations 17-19	Revelations 12-18	Revelations 21	Acts 5
December 31	Revelations 20-22	Revelations 19-22	Sunday: No Reading	Acts 6

In those days, Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. (Luke 2:1-5)

Lord, we have gradually made this Advent journey with you over the past month. We have finally arrived to celebrate your birth. Thank you for walking with us every step of the way, so that we can learn from you and Joseph those sacred gifts of love, forgiveness, grace, and mercy. We continue to learn a great deal from you as you point us toward living out these spiritual gifts in our very lives. Happy Birthday, Lord — Happy Birthday! In Jesus' name 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.

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

New Covenant United Methodist Church

- Summerhill Contemporary Worship
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
 - Summerhill Blended Worship
Sunday 7:45 • 9:15 • 10:45 a.m.
 - Summerhill Children's Orchard Worship
Sunday 10:45 a.m. (Classroom 1)
 - Lake Deaton Worship (Eisenhower Rec Center)
Sunday 8:30 • 9:45 • 11:00 a.m.
- 3470 Woodridge Dr. • The Villages, FL 32162
Phone: 352-750-4529
Fax: 352-259-2971
Email: ncumc@newcovenantumc-fl.org
Website: www.newcovenantumc-fl.org
Facebook: New Covenant United Methodist Church ~ A Place to Call Home

♿ Accessible

Worship Attendance for last week: 5,086
 (BEACH) 41 • (Roots) 16 • (Grounded Youth Group) 15
 (Celebrate Recovery) 70 • (Fresh Expressions) 45 • (Orchard Worship) 11
 (Saturday Contemporary) 260 • (Sunday Summerhill) 7:45-243 • 9:15-760 • 10:45-613
 (Sunday Lake Deaton) 8:30-144 • 9:45-154 • 11:00-102
 (Christmas at New Covenant Concert) 2,612



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

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.



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

Mark Your Calendar upcoming concerts



Amahl and The Night Visitors

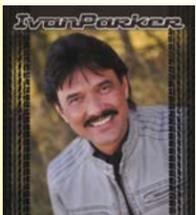
January 4 and 5, 2018 at 7 p.m. — Fellowship Center

Telling the story through song, the three wise men are on a journey to Bethlehem to see the Christ Child when they seek shelter from a poor widow woman and her crippled son. Originally scripted for the debut of the Hallmark Hall of Fame at NBC Studios, this one act opera will appeal to audiences of every age.

Presented in partnership with the Central Florida Lyric Opera and featuring Sandra Lopez as the Mother and Pip Jackson as Amahl, enjoy the sounds of the Shepherd choir comprised of members of the New Covenant and St. Timothy choirs. Directed by Maestro Bill Doherty with accompanist Sean Pollock.

Tickets: \$20 (Artist Section) • \$15 (General) • \$10 (Obstructed View)

A portion of the net proceeds will benefit the Music/Worship Ministries of New Covenant.



Ivan Parker

Sunday, January 14 at 6 p.m. — Christian Life Center

By popular request, join us as Ivan Parker returns to New Covenant. One of the finest singers to ever grace the stage with a quartet, and a long-time favorite on The Gaither Homecoming series, his solo ministry will reach out and grab your heart.

Tickets: \$10

A portion of the net proceeds will benefit the Care Ministries of New Covenant.



The Villages Wind Ensemble

Sunday, January 21 at 6 p.m. — Fellowship Center

The Villages Wind Ensemble presents the *Sister Act at New Covenant*. Jill Van Syckle, conductor and Lesan Van Syckle, French horn soloist perform *Rondo* from Richard Strauss's *Concerto No. 1 for Horn*. Other selections will include the *National Emblem March*, excerpts from Copland's *Appalachian Spring* and everyone's favorite, *A Wizard of Oz* melody.

Tickets: \$15

A portion of the net proceeds will benefit the Care Ministries of New Covenant.



Silver Screen Hits

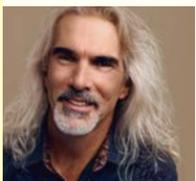
February 8 at 7 p.m. — Christian Life Center

Performing against a back-drop of some of Hollywood's blockbusters, Angie Rose and Sean Pollock present all-time favorite movie tunes.

Also appearing will be The Villages favorite Maestro Bill Doherty. Solos, duets, and a few surprises will keep you captivated during this entertaining evening of song.

Tickets: \$25 (Artist Circle) • \$20 (General Admission)

Net proceeds benefit the "Jean Kelly Backpack for Kids" program ministering to the children in the Wildwood schools.



Guy Penrod

Friday, February 23 at 7 p.m. — Christian Life Center

Guy Penrod spent 14 years as the lead singer of the Gaither Vocal Group before launching a successful solo ministry in 2010. He lives out his faith in Jesus on stage and off, and caps it with a warm-hearted grin.

Tickets: \$25 (Artist Circle) • \$20 (General Admission)

Tickets are only available at The Villages Box Office.

Net proceeds benefit the "Furniture Fund" of the Lake Deaton campus.

YOUTH MINISTRY



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



Seeds of Hope Annual Benefit Concert

February 9 at 7 p.m. — Christian Life Center

The Villages favorites Norman Lee, Billie Thatcher and Chris and Gillian Bolus return in this annual concert. Your donation of cash or non-perishable food items support the Wildwood Food Pantry and the Wildwood Soup Kitchen.

Admission by food or monetary donation at the door.

PLEASE NOTE...

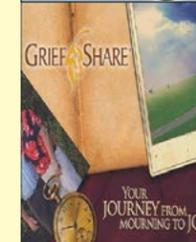
New Covenant provides multiple opportunities throughout the year to attend concerts, as well as other events benefiting the various ministries of our church.

Pick up a copy of the Winter 2017/2018 Concerts and Events Brochure, located in each entrance to the Christian Life Center, the Welcome Center, and the Ticket Kiosk in the West Narthex, and plan to attend our upcoming concerts.

The ticket kiosk is closed December 23 and 24, but will reopen on December 30. Tickets are available on our website and make great "last minute" Christmas gifts!

Unless otherwise noted, all tickets are available on our website (credit card fees will apply), and at the Ticket Kiosk in the West Narthex between Worship Services.

Because We Care... Congregational Care Ministries



GriefShare

Monday, January 8 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. — Chapel

This is our twice-annual, grief support ministry and is open to all in our community. It is our hope that we can reach others who are struggling through this season in life, and provide support as the "new normal" begins to occur. Let someone walk alongside you as you journey on this road.

There is a \$15 registration fee for cost of materials. Please contact Congregational Care Ministries at (352) 750-4529 to register.



Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is not just for those who struggle with chemical dependency, such as drugs or alcohol. Celebrate Recovery is for **all** of life's issues. We currently have two meetings in two locations to meet your needs and we offer childcare at both sites.

- 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.



Running of the Squares — 5K (3.1 mile) Fun Run

Saturday, January 13 – 8 a.m. start time — Lake Sumter Landing

You can be a part of the New Covenant team either running or walking with our group. You may preregister through January 10 at \$25; registration after January 10, through day of the event, is \$30.

You may register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/TheVillages/RunningtheSquaresLakeSumterLanding>. Be sure to designate NCUMC as your team. For more information, please contact Karen Hughes at twofortydesign@hotmail.com.

New Concerns

Phyllis Brent, Ed Buck, Dimi Campbell, Mary Courtney, Roni Crowder, Diane Golab, Inez Hall, The Dibedock Family, Debbie Gentry, Karl Loeper, Larry McMurtrie, Nikki, Larry Steele, Tony Weiler, Phil Stutz



Altar Flowers

The Altar flowers have been provided by Mary & Henry Goldberg in celebration of their 47th anniversary and in memory of Janet & Edward Millar; and Judy Porter in memory of Donald Valois.



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."