

## Education Hour

### ***Children's Education:***

**Pre-K - 2nd Grade**- We are studying stories from the Bible through creative activities and crafts using the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum. This class will meet in the Library (to the left of the Workroom.)

**3rd Grade - 5th Grade** - We are using The Seasons of the Spirit curriculum, music, and art projects to examine the stories of the Bible through the lectionary. This class will meet in the Classroom (to the right of the Workroom.)

**Youth Education:** We continue with the problem of suffering by exploring "J.B." by Archibald MacLeish and the book of Job. The class will meet on the third floor of the Meeks House (across Caroline Street from the church).

### ***Adult Education:***

**Bible Discussion:** Rick Caswell will lead a discussion of a lesson entitled "Extravagant Sign" from the materials provided by the church. The scripture is John 2:1-11.

**In The Sanctuary:** Tim Wegner and Margie Latham will continue our mouth watering exploration of the ecology, economics, theology, ethics, and practical consequences of eating locally, with reference to the books *Animal*, *Vegetable*, *Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver, and *In Defense of Food* by Michael Pollan. Food for thought: "Do you buy food where you buy gasoline?"

**Parents Forum** - Sunday, January 17th Parents Forum will discuss "See Baby Discriminate." This article appeared in Newsweek and can be read at: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/214989>. Parents Forum meets every 3rd Sunday during Education Hour in Laura's office in Meeks House.

## Calendar

Sunday 1/17	8:15 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	9:15 a.m.	All Church Business Meeting
	9:30 a.m.	Education
	9:30 a.m.	Parents' Forum
	10:30 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:00 p.m.	All Church Business Meeting
	12:15 p.m.	Committee Meetings
	3:00 p.m.	Houston Folklore & Music Society Pickin' Party
Tuesday 1/19	6:30 p.m.	Yoga
Wednesday 1/20	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Thursday 1/21	7:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 1/23	8:00 a.m.	Art As Prayer

## Helpful Information

**Childcare** Childcare is provided in the nursery beginning at 8:45 a.m.

**Communication Cards** If you're a visitor with us, please fill out a blue Communication Card and drop it in the Offering basket.

**Covenant Membership** Membership in Covenant Church is open to all persons who affirm the loving presence of God, the life and teachings of Jesus, and the revealed Spirit throughout the ages. Those interested in learning more about Covenant are encouraged to express that interest to one of the Ministers or the Worship Leader. Any person desiring membership first becomes an inquirer and is asked to attend an orientation class designed to acquaint inquirers with the church and its beliefs. After a period of eight weeks, the inquirer may indicate a desire to become a member.

**Celebrations and Concerns** If you would like to share a celebration or concern with the Covenant community, please post it on the announcements board in the Narthex or e-mail it to [prayer@covenanthouston.org](mailto:prayer@covenanthouston.org).

**Covenant Newsletter** There is a weekly Newsletter available online at [www.covenanthouston.org](http://www.covenanthouston.org). To have this Newsletter e-mailed to you, please send an e-mail request to [office@covenanthouston.org](mailto:office@covenanthouston.org).

**Covenant Recycles** If you do not wish to keep your bulletin this Sunday, please recycle it by placing it on the stand located in the Narthex on your way out.

Covenant Church affirms the sanctity, dignity, and equality of human beings and the value of all life in the universe. We welcome persons of all racial and ethnic heritages, all sexual orientations, and all faith perspectives to our Christian community. We stand for each individual's right to worship God and to respond to God's call to ministry in her or his own understanding of God's all-encompassing love.

We value a holistic approach to faith and seek to worship in ways that are intellectually credible, emotionally stimulating, spiritually engaging and contemporarily relevant.

We value music and art and ritual to express what we cannot ever fully say.

We value participation so that we might hear many approaches to our shared faith.

## Covenant Church

an ecumenical liberal baptist  
congregation

### Members of Covenant

Ministers

Jeremy Rutledge  
Minister

Laura Mayo  
Associate Minister

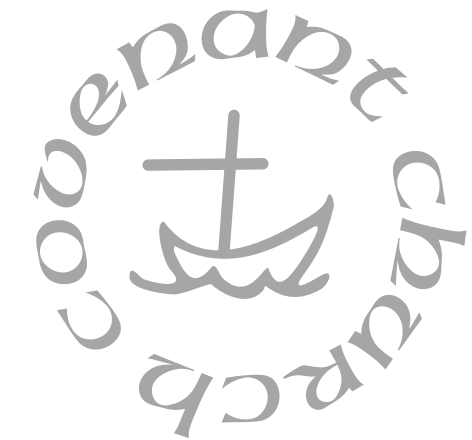
Fran Avera  
Minister of Music

Carl McAliley  
Organist

Pat Long  
Office Administrator

Hanh-Nhi Ngo  
Office Administrator

Covenant Church  
4949 Caroline  
Houston, TX 77004  
713.668.8830



## *A Service of Worship for Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday 17 January 2010*

*I wish today, that Christians would stop talking so much about religion,  
and start doing something about it, and we would have a better world.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*please enter for worship in silence*

\* Prelude “What Wondrous Love is This?” Samuel Barber

Call to Worship

\*+ Processional Hymn 354: “Guide My Feet” Guide My Feet

\* Opening Sentences

If someone with courage and vision can rise to lead in nonviolent action, the winter of despair can, in the twinkling of an eye, be turned into the summer of hope.

It is possible to live in peace.

**Nonviolence is not a garment to put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our being.**

**It is possible to live in peace.**

Nonviolence, which is a quality of the heart, cannot come by an appeal to the brain. It is a plant of slow growth, growing imperceptibly, but surely.

It is possible to live in peace.

**If a single person achieves the highest kind of love it will be sufficient to neutralize the hate of millions.**

**It is possible to live in peace.**

If we are to reach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.

It is possible to live in peace.

**The future depends on what we do in the present.**

**It is possible to live in peace.**

Scripture Lesson Amos 5:21-24

These are our sacred stories.  
**Thanks be to God.**

A Time for Children

\*+ Response: Mueller  
*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and teach us to love Thee and help us to share.*

Call to Confession

Silent Confession

Unison Confession

**Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence, when they help us to see the enemy’s point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves.**

**For from his view we may indeed see the basic weakness of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.**

Words of Assurance

Music arr. George Lynn  
“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

Proclamation: Resting On Our Laurels

Time of Reflection

Hymn 386 Azmon  
“O for a World”

Invitation

Prayer

Offering  
Offertory: John Behnke  
Variation on “Kum Ba Yah”

+ Prayer of Dedication

**Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.**

+ Doxology Old Hundredth  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Sing praise all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Maker, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Affirmation of Faith

**I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered people have torn down other-centered people can build up. I still believe that one day humankind will bow before the altars of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive good will proclaim the rule of the land. “And the lion and the lamb shall lie down together and every person shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall be afraid.” I still believe that we shall overcome.**

+ Recessional Hymn 563 Lift Every Voice  
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Words of Dismissal

Postlude Robert Powell  
“There is a Balm in Gilead”

## Worship

The Acolyte lights the candles at the beginning of worship and carries the light out at the conclusion of the service. The acolyte for the second service is **Byron Kress**.

The Worship Leader are **Tim Wegner** and **Mac Wells**.

The Call to Worship is from J. Bennett Guess in *Bending Toward Justice: A Community Celebration for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday*.

The Opening Sentences are from Mohandas Gandhi.

The Unison Confession is from Martin Luther King, Jr.’s address, “The Trumpets of Conscience.”

**Eric Avera** is the soloist.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Project Plowshares in *Singing the Living Tradition*, the 1993 Unitarian Universalist Association hymnal.

The Affirmation of Faith is adapted from Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Nobel Prize acceptance speech.

\* *Ushers will seat latecomers*  
+ *Please stand if you are able*

+ *Please stand if you are able*