



## A PRAYER FOR OUR STUDENTS

DEAR GOD,  
 THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF  
 EDUCATION IN EVERY FORM.  
 AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR  
 MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,  
 MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND  
 MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.  
 I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE  
 THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM  
 AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.  
 MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY  
 KNOWING THAT NO MATTER  
 WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,  
 THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.  
 AMEN

### In This Issue

- Sunday School Kick-Off
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Youth News
- Children's Ministry News
- New Disciple Classes
- UMW Meeting Info
- Ridge News
- Women's Retreat
- AND MORE!

*Reaching... Nurturing... Transforming...*

# OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

## WITH OUR PRAYERS

### SYMPATHY

Lee Nichols, in the loss of his wife, Evelyn Nichols

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Bill & Gylene Bostick, health concerns

Richard Moore, health concerns

Jim Whitworth, health concerns

Pat Crawford, health concerns

### THE WORLD

People in the city of Juarez

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Sam Berina, health concerns

Barbara Dorris, health concerns

Roxanne Frieze, health concerns

Arturo Chapa, nephew of Ruth & Felix Salinas, health concerns

David Weyant, health concerns

Kitte Green, health concerns

Robert Gentile, heart transplant

Evelyn Haramija, health concerns

Karen Kratz, sister of Vin Richards, health concerns

### FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

Kendall Bond

Wayne Miller

Ella, granddaughter of Margie Melby

Dena Hathaway, sister of Margaret Haddad

Denese Gentry, aunt of Jamie Pelfrey

Robert Askelson, father of Colleen McGuire

Jill Askelson, mother of Colleen McGuire

Shannon Bowles, friend of Kelly Cooke

Rick, friend of Manny Gonzalez

Meredith Galyean

Barbara Barnhill

*\* indicates a new prayer request this week.*

*\*prayers are listed for 3 weeks, cancer concerns for 2 months, unless otherwise specified.*

## WITH OUR PRESENCE

July 3, 2016  
 Worship ..... 211  
 Sunday School ..... 68  
 The Ridge ..... 93

July 10, 2016  
 Worship ..... 175  
 Sunday School ..... 53  
 The Ridge ..... 78

July 17, 2016  
 Worship ..... 177  
 Sunday School ..... 55  
 The Ridge ..... 97

July 24, 2016  
 Worship ..... 198  
 Sunday School ..... 58  
 The Ridge ..... 97

July 31, 2016  
 Worship ..... 196  
 Sunday School ..... 62  
 The Ridge ..... 98

## WITH OUR GIFTS

July 2016 Revenue: \$53,888.96  
 July 2016 Expenses: \$61,763.64

YTD Revenue: \$401,561.18  
 YTD Expenses: \$450,596.12

2016 Revenue Budget YTD: \$504,081.25  
 2016 Expense Budget YTD: \$482,977.96

*If you would like further detail, please call Laurie in the church office. (584.2133)*

**WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG**



### NEED PRAYER?

If you have a prayer request or would like to be a part of our Prayer Chain, email ZDMFHM@aol.com or call 915.581.3051.

Our mission is to reach out with the love of God to those beyond our church, to nurture our church body in the Christian faith and life, helping all to be transformed participants in the mission of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## ELECTRONIC GIVING

Scan the QR code to be taken to our electronic giving website.





# Bible Studies

## BEGINNING THIS SEPTEMBER

### **Disciple 1** *Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study*

**Orientation Meeting Sept 8<sup>th</sup>**

A 34 week overview of the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Video teachings, group discussions, weekly and daily Scripture readings form the basis of this in-depth Bible study. Each week one "mark of discipleship" is introduced and discussed. Come to the orientation meeting to ask questions and get your study manual if you decide to commit to this study.

**Thursday Evenings: 6:30-8:30pm in the John Wesley Room** — Led by Jack Phillips and Terry Allen

### **Disciple 4** *Under the Tree of Life*

**Begins September 28<sup>th</sup>**

A 32 week focused study of The Writings (including Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) from the Old Testament and the New Testament books of John, James, Jude and Revelation. This study has an emphasis on worship, transformation and the promise found in a life lived "under" the authority of Scripture.

**Wednesday Evenings: 6:15-8:30pm in the John Wesley Room** — Led by Steve Putnicki

### **Jesus in the Gospels** *(a 2nd Generation Disciple Study)*

**Begins September 7<sup>th</sup>**

This 30 week focused study looks at the way each Gospel writer presents events and teachings and at the picture of Jesus each portrays. Believers are invited to encounter Jesus in each of the four Gospels and ask the question, "Who is the Jesus that you see?"

**Wednesday Mornings: 9:30-11:30am in the Church Library** — Led by Rev. Amy Mercer

## **Disciple Bible Studies Sign Ups Begin August 21<sup>st</sup> in the Narthex**

If you have any questions please call Pastor Amy at 584-2133.

*Note: Class size is limited to 12 persons and you must have completed Disciple 1 before you can sign up for Disciple 4 or Jesus in the Gospels*

LET **EVERYTHING** THAT HAS  
**Breath**  
 to the  
**LORD!**  
 GIVE PRAISE

# **Hallelujah!**

PSALM 150:6

## **WORSHIPPING GOD THROUGH THE ARTS**

September 11, 2016

4:00PM

WHUMC Sanctuary

**JOIN US FOR A WORSHIP SERVICE  
 PRAISING GOD THROUGH MUSIC,  
 DANCE, VISUAL ARTS, AND DRAMA.**

A special offering will be taken to benefit Sobremesa, the WHUMC Food Truck ministry.



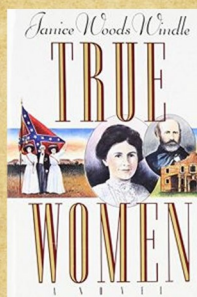
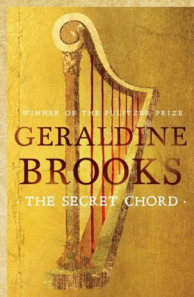
**A RECEPTION WITH LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE HELD IN THE NARTHEX FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. RECEPTION WILL BE HOSTED BY THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE.**

**FAITH, FICTION, & FELLOWSHIP**  
*Page Turners*

September 8th  
The Secret Chord

October 13th  
True Women

7pm - 8:30pm  
 SFLC Lobby



Even if you don't finish the book, join us for lively discussion & bring a friend. Refreshments Provided

**Walk To Emmaus**

**Men: Aug. 18-21**  
**Women: Aug. 25-28**



Both walks will be held at Sacramento Camp and Conference Center.

You will need a sponsor to register. Please contact Linda McKnight at 915-886-8703 [usarchap@gmail.com](mailto:usarchap@gmail.com)

[www.borderlandsemmaus.org](http://www.borderlandsemmaus.org)

Early in 2015, as a result of a periodic inspection of Buildings B and C of the church campus, regarding state licensing standards for Child Care facilities and the City of El Paso Fire Department, church Trustees were notified that immediate action had to be taken to install a fire alarm system together with exit/egress lighting in both buildings. Failure to comply in a timely manner with these requirements would have resulted in the closure of the buildings.

Funding for these installations had not been budgeted, nor were there other funds available to cover these expenses. The Trustees turned to the WHUMC Foundation for assistance, and the Directors of the Foundation promptly approved the advance of funds to cover these expenses. In the ensuing days and weeks, the Foundation paid \$6,145 for the installation of 18 exit/egress lights, and \$21,011 for the fire alarm system. This is a typical occurrence of the types of help for which the Foundation is available.

We are blessed at Western Hills to have the Foundation to further our ministries. Please remember there is no gift too large or too small.

**INVESTING TODAY IN WESTERN HILLS' TOMORROW**



Western Hills Foundation

BUT YOU are CALLED TO SOMETHING HIGHER:  
 "BE PERFECT, AS YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN IS PERFECT."  
 Matthew 5:48 (The Voice)



**BE YE PERFECT\***  
 \*as I am PERFECT

**ANNUAL WOMEN'S retreat**  
 Western Hills UMC & The Ridge  
**OCTOBER 15 & 16**  
 Guest Speaker: Ellen Fenter, Senior Pastor at The Church at Woodmoor, Monument, CO



**General Meeting**  
 Tuesday, August 30  
 9:30am - Narthex

We will begin planning for the Fall Bazaar.

**MISSED A SERMON?**  
 Sermons from each Sunday are posted on our website the following week.  
[www.westernhillsep.org/sermon-podcasts/](http://www.westernhillsep.org/sermon-podcasts/)

# NEWS FROM THE Children's Ministry

## SAVE THE DATES

Children's Council Meeting  
August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm (*Library*)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF

August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am (*SFLC Gym*)  
PreK – 6th Grade



We will be asking the children to bring one *new* board game to donate to The Sarah McKnight Transitional Living Center.

## ACOLYTE TEAMS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING AN ACOLYTE PLEASE CONTACT COLLEEN AT 584-2133. YOUR CHILD SHOULD BE BETWEEN 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE WITH A HEART TO SERVE! TEAMS WILL START UP AGAIN AFTER LABOR DAY. SERVICE DATES ARE ON A MONTHLY ROTATION.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School Helper (9:30am hour)  
Children's Worship Helper (11am hour)

Blessings of Christ Movement  
Ministry Helper (time tbd)

CONTACT COLLEEN OR THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AT 584-2133.

**Love and Logic Parenting Class is going to be a new option during the 9:30am Sunday School hour. The first session will begin Sept.18 and run through Oct. 23. Class will be held in Room C5. Sunday School classes for all ages will be available for children during that hour.**

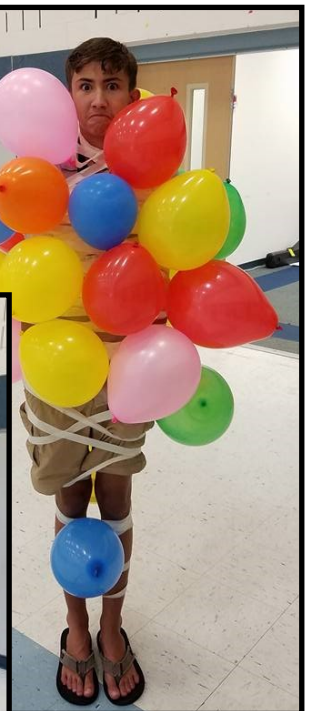
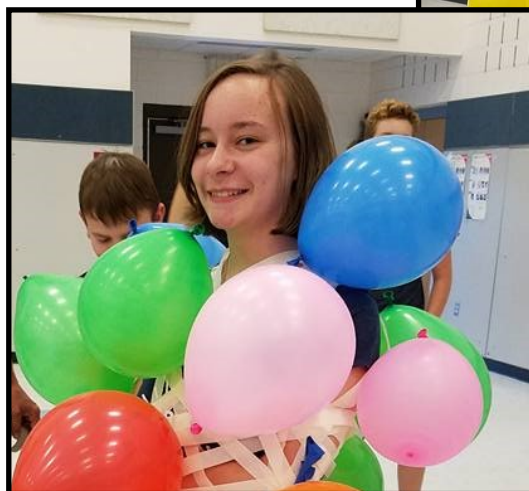


CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES MISSION STATEMENT  
**TO LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART, WITH ALL OUR SOUL, WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL OUR MIND.**

The Western Hills Youth have had a busy summer of fellowship, fun, and service. They even took a trip to Mexico and built a house for a young couple and their two month old baby. The mission project was part of their Mystery Trip that also included a trip to Disneyland. This week, the youth are wrapping up summer and kicking off the new year during their annual Youth Week. Western Hills UMC has a great group of youth and we are so proud of each of them.



WHY Fellowship — Sunday Evenings  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m. — SFLC  
7th Grade—12th Grade



# VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

*One day Alice came to a fork in the road  
and saw a Cheshire cat in a tree.  
“Which road do I take?” she asked.  
“Where do you want to go?” was his response.  
“I don’t know,” Alice answered.  
“Then,” said the cat, “it doesn’t matter.”*

-Lewis Carroll, *Alice In Wonderland*



I want to begin by offering my deep and heartfelt thanks to everyone at the Ridge and Western Hills UMC for the warm and friendly welcome I have received since arriving in El Paso on June 22. To all of you who sent notes and cards of welcome, unloaded furniture into the parsonage, greeted me with warmth and hospitality, and helped me learn the ropes, I am so grateful to all of you!

Whenever I begin work with a new congregation, I think of the Cheshire Cat’s advice in *Alice in Wonderland*. It is so important to know where we are going as a congregation and what road will bring us to our desired destination. As Proverbs 29:18 advises, “Where there is no revelation [or vision], people cast off restraint,” and Scripture repeatedly bears witness that God reveals and plants purpose and vision in the hearts of God’s people. It is our job, then, to discern that vision as well as the *next faithful steps* in fully living into it. The road that we take *matters*.

This is the moment in which we find ourselves as a congregation. We have transitioned into new pastoral leadership and now we have to ask where do we collectively want to go? (Or, more correctly, where does God want us to go?) The good news is that the possibilities are truly endless! We have a strong and dedicated congregation at the Ridge, we have a deep and supportive partnership with our brothers and sisters at Western Hills UMC, and we serve a community in Far West El Paso in which we have ample opportunities to bring meaning and purpose through Jesus’ message of love and saving-grace to a multitude of people.

In other words, I hope that you are as excited as I am. God, who has already proved faithful in the promise to bring leadership and purpose to the congregation at the Ridge, has big things in store for our future. We *are* at a crossroads; I hope you will continue to pray for me as I am continuing to pray for you as we discern where God wants to lead us as we serve him together. Let’s step out in faith and discover the road to which God is leading us.

Pastor Josh Kouri

## WHAT IS YOUR SPIRITUAL TYPE?

Find out August 28 through September 25 as we explore the four spiritual types during worship. Before the series, be sure to learn your type by taking the SPIRITUAL TYPES INVENTORY which will be posted at [www.theridgeep.com](http://www.theridgeep.com) beginning August 14.

# IT'S NOT CHURCH. IT'S HOME.

## Sing a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord

We have all had what I hope has been a relaxing but fun summer and now it's time to tune up those rusty vocal chords and get back to our Chancel Choir. Our first Sunday will be August 7. We will meet at 10:30 to put together an arrangement of a wonderful old hymn "I Surrender All". NO ROBES!! Still too hot!

Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, August 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the choir room. Wouldn't it be great if we had so many new people we had to bring in extra chairs?! We could do it if each of you bring someone. If you are new to Western Hills or your situation has changed, we would love to have you come sing with us. We do an eclectic variety of music on Sundays for the 11 a.m. offertory and special programs a few times during the liturgical year.

I will be attending 2 different workshops this summer to find some really great new music for the upcoming year. I always look forward to seeing and hearing what is out there, either new or seasoned, that I haven't known or have forgotten about.

Our annual choir retreat will be held in our choir room on August 27. The schedule is:

8:30 a.m. meet for coffee and snacks  
9:00 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> rehearsal  
10:30 a.m. devotional time  
10:45 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> rehearsal  
12:00 noon lunch  
1:00 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> rehearsal  
2:15 p.m. break  
2:30 p.m. 4<sup>th</sup> rehearsal  
4:00 p.m. dismissal

# I LOVE CHOIR

Music is such an integral part of worship for many and I look forward to leading our wonderful Chancel Choir again this year as we lead the congregation in worship at Western Hills United Methodist Church.

Blessings to you all.

Margaret Haddad, Director of Music Ministries

## On A New Road... *DISCIPLE* study participant testimony

"After taking DISCIPLE – Sunday has become Sabbath, church has become worship, communion has become covenant. I am on a new road now, and cannot leave it. And I can't stand still on it. When you find yourself on this new road - you can rest, but you cannot stand still. The effect this study has on your life will not be contained – it will spill over to affect your whole family – your friends and the people you work with. It will be felt by all of those around you. Trust God on this."



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(915) 584-6642

## WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

**Ministers**  
All Members

**Rev. Robert Pelfrey**  
Senior Pastor

**Rev. Amy Mercer**  
Mission & Discipleship

**Rev. Josh Kouri**  
The Ridge

**Margaret Haddad**  
Director of Music Ministries

**David Peña**  
Director of Praise & Worship

**Mitzi Underwood**  
Director of Youth Ministries

**Laurie McBride**  
Business/Facilities Manager

**Colleen McGuire**  
Director of Children's Ministries

**Suzy Snow**  
Administrative Assistant

**Mindy Archey**  
Publications

**Patricia Aguirre**  
WH Academy

