

# Connections



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC — EL PASO, TEXAS

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

LET **EVERYTHING** THAT HAS

*Breath*

GIVE  
PRAISE

*to the*  
**LORD!**

## 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.





### NEED PRAYER?

If you have a prayer request or would like to be a part of our Prayer Chain, email [ZDMFHM@aol.com](mailto: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.



## OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

### WITH OUR PRAYERS

#### SYMPATHY

\*Terry Allen & Family, in the loss of his father

Jodi Porter Brown & Family, in the loss of her nephew, Tommy Breitling

Family & Friends of Melissa Sulak

#### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

\*Charlotte Nobles, health concerns

\*Ernie Tobey, health concerns

Alyssa Herrmann, health concerns

John Magruder, health concerns

Jim Whitworth, health concerns

Bill & Gylene Bostick, health concerns

Richard Moore, health concerns

Pat Crawford, health concerns

#### THE WORLD

\*Victims of earthquakes in Italy

Victims of floods in Louisiana

People in the city of Juarez

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS

\*Karl Swenson, health concerns

\*Barbara Martinez

\*Todd Paschich

\*Larry Rothman's aunt

Gloria Ortiz, health concerns

Sam Berina, health concerns

Barbara Dorris, health concerns

#### PRAISE

\*Dave Cost, cancer free

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

\*Priscilla Aguilar

\*Fred Haberlein

Thomas Haddad

Kendall Bond

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

August 7, 2016

Worship ..... 197

Sunday School ..... 73

The Ridge ..... 102

August 14, 2016

Worship ..... 209

Sunday School ..... 86

The Ridge ..... 91

August 21, 2016

Worship ..... 250

Sunday School ..... 82

The Ridge ..... 82

August 28, 2016

Worship ..... 198

Sunday School ..... 58

The Ridge ..... 97

Louisiana Disaster Response

# THANK YOU

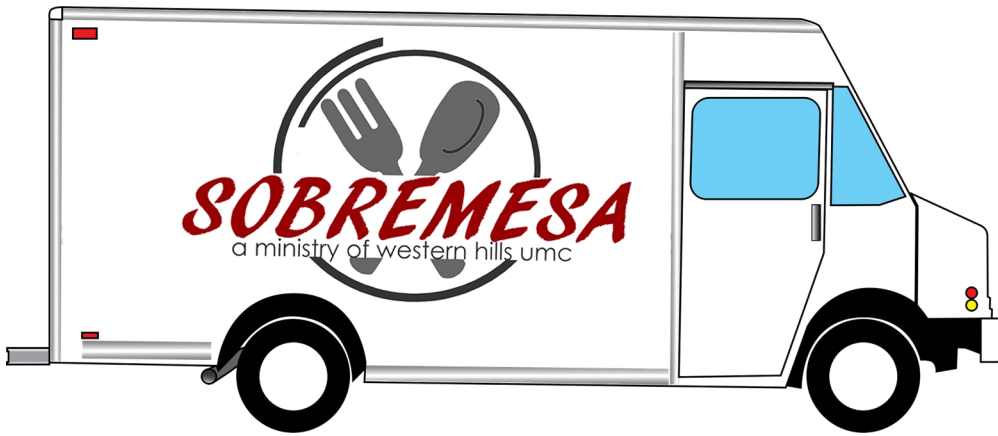
Thanks to your generous donations, over \$6300 will be sent to:

**Roberts UMC, Denham Springs, LA & Magnolia/Deerford UMC, Greenwell Springs, LA**



# IT'S TIME

**Help make the Food Truck Ministry at WHUMC become a reality.**



Sobremesa means "over or around the table," but it also means the time spent in conversation at the table, enjoying each other's company.

For us, how we interact with each other and if everyone has enough to eat, is just as important as what we eat.

**Help us develop this "holy hospitality on wheels" ministry.**

Nutritious and tasty food carried and shared with our neighbors:

- local college campuses during finals week
- stranded travelers at the airport or bus stations
- ministries within Segundo Barrio
- KAIROS ministry
- special meals at Sidewalk Sunday School in Westway
- dinners for the Opportunity Center
- local charity events

Here's Your Chance to CHANGE THE WORLD Fall 2016

**"Worshipping God Through the Arts"**

Sunday, September 11th at 4pm (Sanctuary)

Freewill offering will go towards our purchase of a Food Truck.

Refreshments following will include a sneak preview of the Sobremesa Café.

**Fall Bazaar**

Come eat at the Sobremesa Café at the UMW Fall Bazaar on October 8th  
ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE FOOD TRUCK.

Cooking, set up and clean up, service and hospitality teams needed.

**Operation Turkey Sandwich \* Nov. 25– 26**

Gather to cook, assemble and deliver fancy sack lunches ("grace meals") to those in the community who have to work on Thanksgiving Day.

Cooks, assemblers, delivery drivers needed. More details coming soon.

*Contact Pastor Amy to volunteer for one of these projects.  
915-584-2133 or amy@westernhillsep.org*

**Ushers Needed**  
*Are you willing to serve?*

If you would like to serve as an usher for the 11am service, please call Debbie Hand at 491-2469. We are in need of additional people to serve whether it be on a regular basis or substitute basis.

# A DISCIPLE'S TESTIMONY — A JOURNEY

"Initially we were told that DISCIPLE Bible study was going to be transforming. Indeed. At the end we find ourselves on a different road. Before I began DISCIPLE, it was invisible, hearing but not understanding, seeing but never perceiving. It is disconcerting, after months of enormously exciting Bible study, to find yourself on a new road. Sunday has become Sabbath, church has become worship, communion has become covenant, and people have become bonded. Now being on this road, you cannot leave it. You cannot stand still on it, you can rest, but you cannot stand still. It is a "way", it is a journey, and it is life. If I never see you again, no matter, you will be with me always. And if I know with certainty that you will be with me always, then how much more so will Christ. My DISCIPLE family, have been "little Christs" to me, have been answered prayers for me and I thank you."

My greatest joy in ministry has been realized as I have witnessed others respond to the call of God in their lives, as parents, as leaders, as advocates for those with special needs and to ministries of all kinds. I have been honored to have spent time "in the Word" with many fellow pilgrims. Some are now part of the Church Triumphant and some have moved to other states and led Disciple groups there.

The rewards are incredible for those of you who commit to be leaders also — you will grow in your faith and be blessed as you witness the transformation in others. God lets us see others transformed — not so that we can feel pride or take credit for the growth — but only so that we might see His mighty power at work, and give Him the glory. The effect this study has on your life will not be contained — it will be felt by all of those around you. Trust God on this. I have seen it happen, time and time again.

In His Service,  
Amy Mercer

**SIGN UP NOW FOR Disciple 1 Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study**  
**Thursday Evenings: 6:30-8:30pm in the John Wesley Room — Led by Jack Phillips and Terry Allen**  
**Orientation Meeting Sept 8<sup>th</sup>**

Starting back up — September 11

**LIFE GROUPS**

WESTERN HILLS UMC

**Fall Bazaar 2016**

We will have vendors, bake sale, silent auction & Sobremesa Café. All proceeds go towards missions. Café proceeds will go towards our food truck ministry, Sobremesa.

**October 8<sup>th</sup>**

**FAITH, FICTION, & FELLOWSHIP**

*Page Turners*

September 8<sup>th</sup>  
The Secret Chord

October 13<sup>th</sup>  
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

**MAX LUCADO**  
A TIMELESS INSPIRATIONAL CLASSIC

**NEW STUDY BEGINS**  
September 8<sup>th</sup>

**HE STILL MOVES STONES**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY  
Thursdays at 6:30pm  
Room C-2

HE STILL MOVES STONES  
by Max Lucado

CONTACT:  
Zoe Dean Middleton  
915-581-3051 or  
zdmfhm@aol.com





# KIDS CHOIR

Western Hills United Methodist Church

## JC CREW IS BACK

Western Hills' Kids Choir returns under the direction of David Pena.

Your child will:

*Sing, Dance, Play Games, and Perform*

They will learn the fundamentals of music.

*No experience necessary.*

Mr. Pena is a current UTEP music student with a heart for children and a love of music.



JC CREW is open to all children ages 4 yrs. old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Sundays 11:00am—noon

September 4<sup>th</sup>—May 2017

Western Hills UMC, 524 Thunderbird Dr.

Questions? Contact the church office 915.584.2133 and ask for Colleen.

**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.**





# WHY

WE'RE HIS YOUTH

**WHY Fellowship**  
**Sunday Evenings**  
**5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**  
**Stewart Family Life Center**

**Sun., Sept. 4**  
Holiday Weekend  
*No WHY Fellowship*

**Sun., Sept. 11**  
**Worship Through The Arts**  
**Special Service, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Refreshments After**





# VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

## Josh's Jottings

September 2016

### Send us your Ridge Moments!

Here at the Ridge, we have devoted volunteers, wonderful children, insightful Sunday School and small-group leaders, and so much more! The Holy Spirit is vibrantly active in the life of our congregation, and we need your help in sharing that energy and activity. With so many exciting things happening around the Ridge, Pastor Josh needs your help recording our church's story and sharing it with others.

If you see a "picture-worthy" moment at the Ridge, snap a pic on your phone and send it to Pastor Josh. We need your pictures of life at the Ridge and we'll share them on the guest bulletin board, newsletter, website, and social networking pages. (Note to parents: we won't show pictures of children on social networking sites.)

Is your small group planning a gathering or service project? Is a Sunday School class planning an exciting activity? Is there a special event or moment at Sunday worship that needs to be captured and shared? Text pics of your "Ridge moments" to Josh at 915-228-8864 or email him at [josh@theridgeeep.com](mailto:josh@theridgeeep.com). Our congregation has a great story to share with others. Let's capture those *Ridge Moments* starting today!

Pastor Josh Kouri



A big thanks to everyone who brought backpacks and school supplies for students at Brown Middle School. In all, we collected 24 bags and enough supplies to fill them all! Thank you to everyone who helped give the gift of education to a student this year!

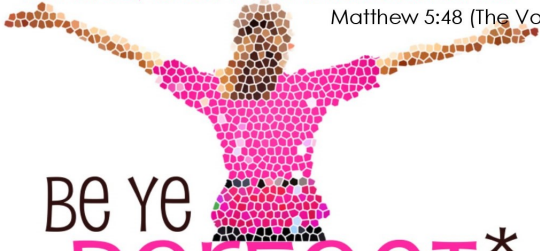
# TRUNK or Treat

MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
Neighborhood Trunk or Treat  
October 29<sup>th</sup>

We need lots of helpers and decorated trunks for this year's trunk or treat fall celebration. Also, this year will include a "best decorated trunk" contest, so start planning now! Trunk or Treat will be from 6-8 PM at Brown Middle School. Setup will begin at 4 PM. Contact Morgan Peabody for more info.

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

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

About our Guest Speaker: Ellen Hamilton Fenter has served as Senior Pastor of The Church at Woodmoor in Monument, Colorado for 8 years. TC@W is an Ecumenical congregation, dedicated to sharing God's Word through honest and challenging study, engaging fellowship opportunities and most of all - service to others. An important guideline for those at TC@W is: "don't check your brain at the door" when we gather together and don't "leave your faith in the pew" when you depart.

Pastor Ellen's roots are deep in the UMC and her heart will always be with her friends and colleagues in the New Mexico Annual Conference. It was here she grew to a place where God would call her into ministry. And it was here she was nurtured into the role of Pastor. While Colorado is the place God has placed her to serve, the mesas of New Mexico and borderlands of El Paso will forever be the place she calls "home."

Pastor Ellen and her husband, Carl, have 4 children and are now co-parenting their beautiful and "special" granddaughter, Vivi.

REGISTER NOW

[WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG](http://WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG)

# CHURCHWORK DAY

SEPTEMBER 17th

9am - Noon

Let us know you are coming.  
 RSVP to the church office  
 at 584-2133.

Meet in the  
 Narthex for  
 coffee and  
 goodies before  
 work begins.

There are all kinds of  
 small to medium  
 tasks that need to be  
 done around the  
 church, inside & out.

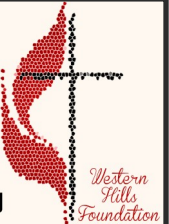
Come with your work clothes  
 and a little extra elbow grease  
 to help get Western Hills UMC  
 in tiptop shape for fall.

**Back To School...**As the summer comes to an end our focus turns to our kids and grandkids returning to school.

**Western Hills Foundation** has

provided many classroom supplies along with building upgrades and improvements to make our Western Hills School better and safer. Last year the Foundation distributed over \$35,000 for HVAC replacements, newly mandated fire alarm systems for buildings B & C and refurbished the SFLC playground. These capital improvements were necessary and would not have been possible without the foundation. Please consider becoming a "Friend of the Foundation" or making a donation to further Western Hills's ministries - **Investing Today in Western Hills Tomorrow.**

INVESTING  
 TODAY IN  
 WESTERN  
 HILLS'  
 TOMORROW



## WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

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 El Paso, TX 79912

Office:  
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WH Academy:  
 (915) 584-6642

**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/Communications

**Patricia Aguirre**  
 WH Academy