

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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC — EL PASO, TEXAS

Connections



NOVEMBER 2016

HOLY LIGHT

A Candlelight Service of Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 6 P.M.

Featuring:

Western Hills' Chancel Choir

J.C. Crew Children's Choir

Readers

Liturgical Dancers

Quintessential Brass

Percussion

Robert A. Hobby

Readings by Susan Palo Cherwein





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.



OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

WITH OUR PRAYERS

SYMPATHY

Family & Friends of Betty Grayson

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Barbara Kusserow, family decisions
Dick Yetter
Wendy Dickman, health concerns
Charlotte Nobles, health concerns
Ernie Tobey, health concerns
John Magruder, health concerns
Jim Whitworth, health concerns

THE WORLD

Victims of Hurricane Matthew
People in the city of Juarez

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Iris and husband, health concerns
Jackie Burkner, health concerns
Logan Justin Graham, health concerns
Karl Swenson, health concerns
Melissa Cheeseman, health concerns
Bob Snead
LaWanna Lincoln, health concerns
Lisa Rogers, health concerns
Bob Farmer, health concerns
Jamie A., health concerns
Roy, health concerns
Joeline & Richard Rossol, health concerns
Gayle Petersen, health concerns
Dare Stevens, health concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

Anne
Susana
Sandy
Henry Salinas
Bob Snead
Gavin Moon
Kim
Miss Monica
Aiden Switzer
Sylvia Villagrana
Melanie K.
Priscilla Aguilar
Fred Haberlein
Thomas Haddad
Ella
Dena Hathaway
Denese Gentry
Robert Askelson
Jill Askelson
Shannon Bowles
Rick
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

October 16, 2016	October 30, 2016
Worship.....239	Worship.....220
Sunday School.....89	Sunday School.....87
The Ridge.....91	The Ridge.....76
Sidewalk SS.....58	Sidewalk SS.....30
October 23, 2016	November 6, 2016
Worship.....225	Worship.....292
Sunday School.....103	Sunday School.....90
The Ridge.....99	The Ridge.....116
Sidewalk SS.....30	Sidewalk SS..... n/a

WITH OUR GIFTS

Revenue 9/2016 \$45,918.61 Revenue MTD 10/2016 \$85,652.63
Expenses 9/2016 \$61,599.45 Expenses MTD 10/2016 \$62,341.56

Revenue YTD 9/2016 \$490,600.32 Revenue YTD 10/2016 \$576,252.95
Expenses YTD 9/2016 \$581,469.55 Expenses YTD 10/2016 \$643,811.11

Revenue Budget YTD 9/2016 \$640,781.01 Revenue Budget YTD 10/2016 \$711,978.90
Expenses Budget YTD 9/2016 \$613,951.56 Expenses Budget YTD 10/2016 \$682,168.40

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

Sidewalk Sunday School Christmas Celebration

Help give a child at Sidewalk a Merry Christmas!

take a box

boxes available 12/4

fill it up

instructions on box

bring it back

return filled boxes by 12/11



GIVING TREE



Tags available: NOVEMBER 20th
Return gifts: DECEMBER 5th

Look for the Giving Tree at the back of the Sanctuary starting 11/20. The tree will be for the 1st – 3rd grade children at Centro Santa Catalina in Juarez. We will do a warm-up outfit and a toy. Please return gifts by 12/5.



We will be cooking and delivering gourmet box lunches for those who have to work on Thanksgiving day.

NOVEMBER 24TH
DELIVERY TEAMS NEEDED
10:15-11:30AM

Pick up (at WHUMC) and deliver gourmet box lunches to those in the community who have to work on Thanksgiving Day. Each team of two will deliver 10-12 lunches (at 2-5 stops).

If you know of a friend, neighbor, or relative in El Paso who will be working that day – and would like to deliver lunch to them – you may “reserve” a lunch for them and their co-workers and then deliver it on Thanksgiving morning. Contact Pastor Amy now to volunteer or to reserve lunches 915-584-2133 or amy@westernhillsep.org

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Sunday, November 20th
3:00PM

Join together for a time of fellowship and refreshments as we decorate the church for the Christmas season.

We Remember

Lillie Bond
Marge Sturdy
Joyce Cunningham
Louise Wikstrom
George Ernst
Lena Wilbourn
Steve Tatem
Jim McCann
Dorothy Wood
Evelyn Nichols
Kendall Bond
Michael Hardin



BLUE BIN
COLLECTIONS

2016
NOVEMBER

**CANNED GOODS &
NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEMS**

For Thanksgiving
Blessing Baskets

Please bring items by 11/13

2016

CHURCH CONFERENCE

MONDAY, NOV. 28
6:30PM
SANCTUARY

Western Hills UMC is currently experiencing a shortfall in our 2016 budget. To help address this shortfall, we are asking each household, that is able, to increase their regular giving by \$100/month for October, November, and December 2016.

BUDGET
SHORTFALL

MAY GOD BLESS
YOUR GENEROSITY

NEWS FROM THE Children's + Ministry

On Oct. 30th, our third graders received their Bibles. It was a special time as Pastor Robert said a blessing over them and then, along with Pastor Josh, led Bible camp where they learned to navigate their new Bibles. As a special treat this year they also received The Action Bible. It contains over 200 stories in chronological order with great imagery. Our kids love the graphics! Bible Camp was a time of fun, learning, fellowship, and a whole lot of pizza!



SAVE THE DATES

November 20th

Hanging of the Greens

3 p.m.

Crafts for the children from 3-4 p.m.

John Wesley room.

December 11th

J.C. Crew/Youth Christmas Caroling

Sunridge at Desert Springs, 5901 Bandolero Dr.



LOVE



GROW



SERVE

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.**

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

Nov. 18 to 20
CCYM Senior High Retreat

Sun., Nov. 20
No WHY Fellowship

Sun., Dec. 11
Christmas Caroling at Retirement
Community 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

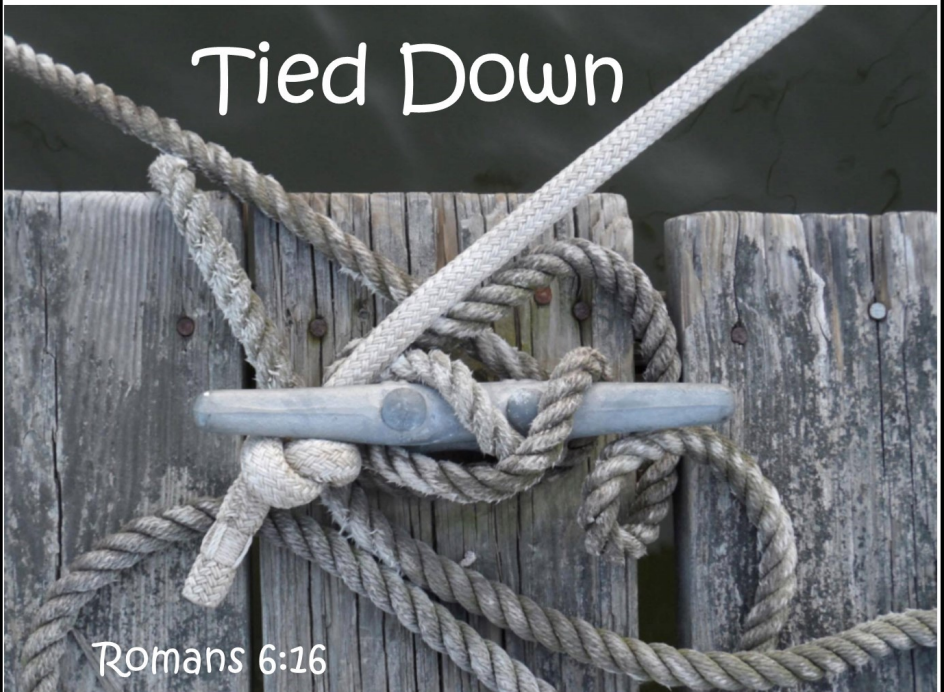
WHY Christmas Party
3:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Bring Silly \$5.00 Gift!

Sat., Dec. 17
"Parents Night Out"
Fundraiser for Louisiana Mission
5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 25 & Jan. 1
No WHY Fellowship

CCYM NM Fall Retreat

Conference Council on Youth Ministry New Mexico



9th-12th Graders

November 18-20

Cost: \$125

Registration and \$30 nonrefundable deposit due before Nov. 11 , additional \$15 after that. Contact Mitzi for paperwork, or register online at Sacramentocamp.org



VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

from Pastor Josh

If you have been shopping over the past week or so, you know by the arrival of fake trees and glitzy ornaments in most department stores that a special time of year is fast approaching. The Holidays – Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Years – are upon us and, if you're like me, this is your favorite time of year. Bring on the Bing Crosby and the Egg Nog!

As wonderful as the holidays are, however, many Christians in recent years have noticed a conspicuous drift within our shared cultural celebration of the season. Christmas and Advent, the seasons of love, hope, and redemption competes more and more with a different holiday season, one marked by shopping, spending, debt, and stress. Somewhere along the way, we have forgotten the Jesus story – the best story I know of – and embraced a different story which focuses on sales, trips to the mall, and consuming our way to the perfect holiday experience. When you stop and think of it, this a peculiar way to celebrate a holiday (or holy day?) in which the church remembers that we are noticeably imperfect and so God sent his perfect Son on a rescue mission on our behalf.

Therefore, I want to offer you an invitation to join us at the Ridge as we plan a conspiracy – an Advent Conspiracy! Advent Conspiracy is a national campaign founded in 2006 in which Christians join together to embrace the season of Jesus' incarnation and to retrain our spirits away from the gaudy consumer-fest that the holidays have become. Each week in Advent, we will embrace an alternative value which can shape our holiday season. As fellow pilgrims on our way to the manger, we will focus on:

Week 1: Worshipping Fully

Week 2: Spending Less

Week 3: Giving More

Week 4: Loving All

This truly is a conspiracy which challenges the fundamental values of our culture's holiday observance. So starting on November 27, join us for this Advent Conspiracy! For more info on Advent Conspiracy, visit adventconspiracy.org.

conspire with us



Thanks to all from Western Hills and The Ridge who attended and helped out at this year's Trunk or Treat. We had hundreds of visitors from our neighborhood and made contact with over 100 guests!



THE RIDGE. IT'S NOT CHURCH. IT'S HOME.



Mark your calendar now for Sunday, December 4th at 6 p.m. in the Western Hills Sanctuary and make plans to get your holiday started in a thoughtful and serene

way by attending our Candlelight Service of Carols and Readings. There will be familiar carols arranged by Robert Hobby and readings taken from Susan Palo Cherwien's *From Glory into Glory*, scripture readings and candle lighting. The Chancel Choir will be accompanied by brass, organ, piano, percussion and even the J.C. Crew. You don't want to miss this opportunity to set a reflective tone for the holiday season.

On a sad note, we will be saying "Vaya con Dios" to Dennis Margheim and Marie Rocheleau at the end of November. Marie has already gone back to Florida to get their house ready and Dennis will follow after his last services on November 27. Marie sang in the Chancel Choir and the Praise Team and served at the Opportunity Center. She was quick to volunteer in any way she could. Besides playing organ and keyboard in all 3 services, Dennis comforted us with his music in our times of grief and amused us with his magic. I never gave a hymn title that he didn't sit right down and play it from memory. What an incredible musician! We have been very blessed to have enjoyed them these past years and will miss them both greatly but, we know with their servant's hearts, they will jump right in and continue to do God's work in Florida. Please make the opportunity to stop by the organ or keyboard and let Dennis know how much we all appreciate him. Don't forget to sign the friendship quilt!

Margaret Haddad

WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

Ministers
All Members

Margaret Haddad
Director of Music Ministries

Laurie McBride
Business/Facilities Manager

Rev. Robert Pelfrey
Senior Pastor

David Peña
Director of Praise & Worship

Suzy Snow
Administrative Assistant

Rev. Amy Mercer
Mission & Discipleship

Mitzi Underwood
Director of Youth Ministries

Mindy Archey
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