

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

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC — EL PASO, TEXAS

*Connections*



DECEMBER 2016

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### *Christmas Eve*

**5:00PM**

Family Service

**7:00PM**

The Ridge Service  
(Contemporary)

**11:00PM**

Traditional Service  
(Holy Communion)

All services will be held at  
WHUMC in the Sanctuary.

### *Christmas Day*

**10:00AM**

One service held at 10am with  
coffee time at 9:30am. Service  
led by WHUMC/Pastor Robert  
Pelfrey. No Sunday school.

### *New Year's Day*

**10:00AM**

One service held at 10:00am  
with coffee time at 9:30am.  
Service led by The Ridge/  
Pastor Josh Kouri. No Sunday  
school.







## 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

\*Family & Friends of Frank Shioji  
Felix Salinas & Family, in the loss of his brother, Henry Salinas

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

\*Marie Rocheleau, health concerns  
Betty Hill, health concerns  
Dick Yetter  
Wendy Dickman, health concerns  
Charlotte Nobles, health concerns  
Ernie Tobey, health concerns  
John Magruder, health concerns  
Jim Whitworth, health concerns

### THE WORLD

People in the city of Juarez

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Dare Stevens, health concerns  
Hector Hernandez, health concerns  
Anabel Andrade  
Iris and husband, health concerns  
Jackie Burkner, health concerns  
Logan Justin Graham, health concerns  
Karl Swenson, health concerns  
Melissa Cheeseman, health concerns

### FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

Kim Hamilton  
Gavin Moon  
Marianna Derr  
Anne  
Susana  
Sandy  
Bob Snead  
Sylvia Villagrana  
Fred Haberlein  
Thomas Haddad  
Dena Hathaway  
Denese Gentry  
Robert Askelson  
Jill Askelson  
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

November 13, 2016	November 27, 2016
Worship ..... 219	Worship..... 216
Sunday School ..... 100	Sunday School..... 88
The Ridge ..... 88	The Ridge..... 81
Sidewalk SS ..... 52	Sidewalk SS..... 30
November 20, 2016	December 4, 2016
Worship ..... 221	Worship..... 223
Sunday School ..... 88	Sunday School..... 100
The Ridge ..... 113	The Ridge..... 105
Sidewalk SS ..... 58	Sidewalk SS..... n/a

### END OF YEAR GIVING INFO

In order for gifts/contributions to be credited to 2016, they must be postmarked by 12/31/2016.

Electronic giving must be processed by 12/31/16. If you have any questions, please speak to Laurie in the church office or email [laurie@westernhillsep.org](mailto:laurie@westernhillsep.org).





## WELCOME TO AINA OLONADE

Please take an opportunity to say hello and give a great big Western Hills welcome to Aina Olonade, our new organist. Aina comes to us from Nigeria via Warrensburg, MO where he played organ for First United Methodist Church while he studied music at the university there. He is currently a graduate piano performance major at UTEP studying with Dr. Dena Kay Jones. We are very fortunate to have Aina with us and I know you will make him feel like part of our family. - Margaret Haddad

# Welcome

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed on 12/23 & 12/26 and 1/2 in observance of Christmas & New Year's.



Our staff may be operating on adjusted and abbreviated schedules during the holidays. Please call the church office at 915.584.2133 BEFORE you come.



## COOKIES NEEDED

WE ARE IN NEED OF 25 DOZEN HOMEMADE COOKIES TO BE SERVED ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE OPPORTUNITY CENTER. COOKIES ARE NEEDED BY DEC. 23 AND NEED TO BE NUT FREE. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO BAKE COOKIES, PLEASE LET JACKIE GAINES KNOW AT 915-217-9282 OR JGAINES58@ATT.NET.

## sandwich makers

AS IT GETS COLDER, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE GET SANDWICHES TO THE OPPORTUNITY CENTER.

THEY DEPEND ON OUR HELP.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR SANDWICHES TO THE CHURCH ON YOUR DESIGNATED FRIDAY. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MAKE SANDWICHES ON YOUR DAY, PLEASE CALL CAROL OR SUZETTE.

WE WILL NOT BE TAKING SANDWICHES ON THE FRIDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS - BUT WE WILL TAKE THEM THE FRIDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.



## Sidewalk Sunday School

### Christmas Celebration

Help give a child at Sidewalk a Merry Christmas!

Thank you to all those who took a box to fill.

Filled boxes are due back by this Sunday, Dec. 11.



## IN PLACE OF POINSETTIAS

### SOBREMESA FOOD TRUCK MINISTRY



### In Place of Poinsettias Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

QTY \$15 each

\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Return to church office or in offering plate on Sunday morning.

Total Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_





## Operation Turkey Sandwich 2016



200 grace meals were lovingly prepared and graciously delivered. A big thank you to all who made someone else's Thanksgiving special by giving up a part of their holiday.





# NEWS FROM THE Children's Ministry

THE JC CREW IS TEAMING UP WITH THE  
WHUMC YOUTH TO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 2 PM**  
SUNRIDGE AT DESERT SPRINGS NURSING FACILITY  
5901 BANDOLERO DR.



WE WILL MEET FIRST AT THE CHURCH AT 1:30 AND GO OVER TOGETHER.  
PARENTS OF CHILDREN PRESCHOOL THRU SIXTH NEED TO ACCOMPANY THEIR  
CHILD/CHILDREN TO THE NURSING HOME.

AFTER CAROLING, WE WILL COME BACK TO THE CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN WILL MEET IN  
ROOM C2 FOR A CHRISTMAS PARTY! WE WILL BE DECORATING SUGAR COOKIES.  
PARENTS, PLEASE STAY TO HELP.

THIS EVENT WILL BE THE START OF A NURSING HOME MINISTRY FOR OUR  
CHILDREN THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP INTO A YEAR ROUND MISSION  
PROJECT. THIS IS A GREAT MISSION ACTIVITY FOR FAMILIES TO DO TOGETHER!



THANK YOU TO  
THE ELVES THAT  
SHOWED UP TO HELP AT HANGING OF THE GREENS!



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. SFLC



### Friday, December 9

OC's Play, "Seussified Xmas Carol"  
7:30 p.m. - Cost \$5 for Students  
First Presbyterian Church  
1340 Murchison

### Saturday, December 17

Sidewalk Sunday School Christmas  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Meet at the church at 10:00 a.m.  
Lunch Provided

### Sunday, December 11

Christmas Caroling at  
Assisted Living Center  
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

### Sunday, December 18

"Parents Night Out"  
Fundraiser for Louisiana Mission  
5:00 to 8:00 p.m. - SFLC  
*Bring Games/Crafts for the Kids*

WHY Christmas Party  
3:30 to 6:00 p.m.  
*Bring a \$5.00 silly gift*

**December 25 & January 1**  
*No WHY Fellowship*



FALL 2016 CCYM at SACRAMENTO CAMP



# VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

## *Josh's Jottings...*

I am writing with exciting news and with a plea for your help. In her book, Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers, Anne Lamott offers some advice, which all of us at The Ridge will be challenged to follow in the months ahead. Lamott writes:

*When we think we can do it all ourselves – fix, save, buy, or date a nice solution – it's hopeless. We're going to screw things up. We're going to get our tentacles wrapped around things and squirt our squiddy ink all over, so that there is even less visibility, and then we're going to squeeze the very life out of everything...Or we can summon up a child's courage and [say a few small words of prayer] in the hope that we can get our inky squid tentacles off things. We do this without a clue how it will all turn out.*

Looking at the year ahead, Lamott's words ring true. In October, I formed a group that would explore "New Directions" that our congregation can explore as we grow our witness and ministry to our neighbors in far west El Paso. Over the last few months, the New Directions team has discerned that we want to explore the possibility of locating a dedicated meeting space for our little congregation. This would mean moving our meeting place from Brown Middle School to a location where we could worship, meet, and reach out to the community throughout the week. (No set-up and tear-down every week. A space for family ministries, discipleship, community outreach. Yay!)

To be sure, this goal is not a sure thing yet. We need to find a location that is both financially reasonable and in a location and facility that is suitable to our missional needs. To borrow Lamott's words, we are doing this "without a clue how it will turn out." So I want to invite all of you at both The Ridge and Western Hills to please join me in praying for The Ridge as we explore this process. Wherever our congregation meets, we want to continually pursue the next faithful steps in God's plan for us. This can be unnerving and requires we follow in faith and prayer. Also, mark your calendars for January 13-14 when we will hold a 24-hour prayer vigil for The Ridge. We'll be sharing more about this event in the weeks to come. But we want to explore these new directions in an attitude of prayerful obedience.

For more info on our efforts, please feel free to contact me at [josh@theridgeep.com](mailto:josh@theridgeep.com). Blessings to you all in this Advent season!

*Pastor Josh Kouri*

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



*Join us for a silent and holy night!*

**Christmas Eve Service**

**7:00 PM**

**Western Hills UMC Sanctuary**

Carol singing, music, drama, and the miracle of the Savior's birth!





## Know a young person who might want to attend a Chrysalis?

The Borderlands Emmaus Community is holding boys and girls Chrysalis events on MLK Weekend (January 13-16, 2017). For more info, contact Pastor Josh at [josh@theridgeep.com](mailto:josh@theridgeep.com). Attendees should be signed up ASAP in order for sponsors to adequately prepare for the event. Both events will be at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. Chrysalis is open to all young men and women aged 16-24. <http://borderlands.website/>



Thank you to all those who participated in and attended the Holy Light worship service on the evening of December 4th.

*Photos courtesy of Steve Putnicki.*



## 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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**Rev. Josh Kouri**  
The Ridge

**Colleen McGuire**  
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