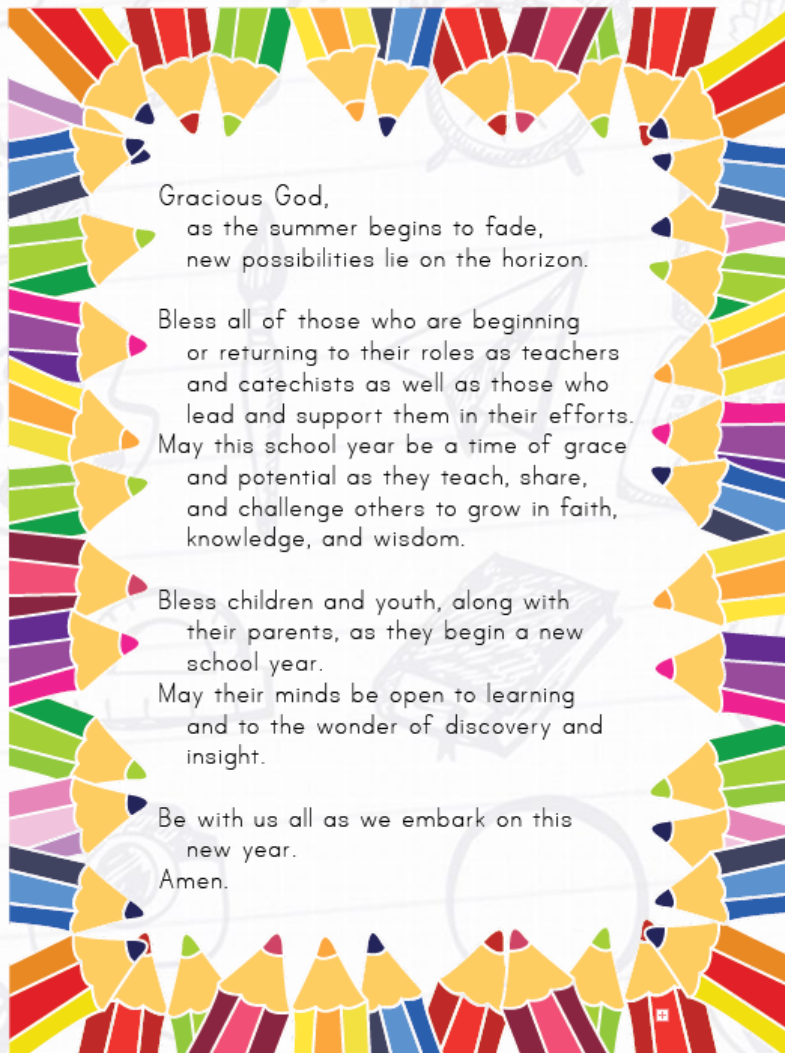


AUGUST 2017

Connections



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC
EL PASO, TEXAS



Gracious God,
as the summer begins to fade,
new possibilities lie on the horizon.

Bless all of those who are beginning
or returning to their roles as teachers
and catechists as well as those who
lead and support them in their efforts.
May this school year be a time of grace
and potential as they teach, share,
and challenge others to grow in faith,
knowledge, and wisdom.

Bless children and youth, along with
their parents, as they begin a new
school year.
May their minds be open to learning
and to the wonder of discovery and
insight.

Be with us all as we embark on this
new year.
Amen.

**HAVE I NOT
COMMANDED YOU?
BE STRONG AND
COURAGEOUS!
DO NOT TREMBLE
OR BE DISMAYED,
FOR THE LORD YOUR
GOD IS WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO.**

JOSHUA 1:9

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

VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

A big thank you to Anastasia Marcum for preaching last Sunday, August 6th. Anastasia is about to move to Kentucky for theological studies at Asbury Seminary. We are so proud of Anastasia and wish her the very best as she pursues her calling into ministry!



CALL TO PRAYER

The Ridge has a big year ahead and we are ready to reach out with God's love to our neighbors and friends in 2017-2018! Critically, we want to do so in a way that is faithful and obedient to God's will. So, join us in a vigil of prayer through Labor Day! Here are two ways you can join in:

1. Pick one day per week and pray for the Ridge to FAITHFULLY be God's people, growing in grace and discipleship, reaching out in a spirit of evangelism, and sharing God's love through words and good deeds. Pray on your chosen day between now and Labor Day weekend.
2. The Ridge's leadership team is meeting on August 12 to plan for the year ahead. Take a moment on that Saturday and pray that we would look at the year ahead with wisdom and faithfulness to God's will. Pray that through our shared work as the church, lives would be changed and our community transformed.

Dear Members of The Ridge and Western Hills,

A NOTE ON BUILDING PROGRESS

Over the past 9 months or so, I have shared with you our vision for the Ridge's next faithful steps in ministry and witness in far-west El Paso. Part of that vision involves finding a dedicated space where our church can meet, worship, grow spiritually, and reach out in service and witness to our community. In that time we have made critical progress toward our goal, and we have also experienced a few setbacks. First the progress:

- The congregation is prepared for our eventual departure from Brown Middle School. The members at the Ridge are ready and supportive of this change.
 - We are financially prepared to rent a facility that will help our church grow into its next phase of ministry. Thanks to faithful giving to our building fund from the congregation, and a generous grant from the New Mexico Annual Conference, we can afford a space!
 - In the months ahead, we are ready to grow our witness to our neighbors. Ultimately, the church's mission is to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (and neighborhoods, and families, and communities)." We want to reach new and previously un-churched people so that their lives can be changed by Jesus' love.

This has been critically important work, and I am so thankful to all who have planned for this coming change, who have helped articulate the vision for these next steps, and who have bravely embraced the possibility of change. Seeds have been planted that are about to sprout!

At the same time, we have faced one crippling and disappointing setback, and I am asking for everyone's help in overcoming it. While we have located numerous rental properties that would suitably meet our congregation's needs, we have been repeatedly turned down by landlords who are simply not interested in renting space to a church. The reasons for this are complex, but we are repeatedly being turned down and it is disheartening that we cannot *give our money* in exchange for space.

I am asking everyone who reads this, if you or someone you know owns an available commercial or industrial property that meets the following criteria, please contact the church. We are looking for a property that:

1. Is 4,500-6,500 square feet. We could consider a slightly bigger space, but probably not a smaller one.
2. Is located north of Redd Road. We would prefer a location on the East side of I-10, but west of I-10 is okay too.
3. Has adequate parking for Sunday mornings, at least 60-70 spaces.

If you or someone you know has a space that might suit our needs, all of us at the Ridge would love to rent it. We are excited about our congregation's growth and development and the many ways that God's love is at work through the people at the Ridge. Please consider helping us out.

On a personal note, I firmly believe El Paso is a great place to live. The city is growing and new businesses are opening everywhere you look. What an exciting place to be in ministry! My prayer is that all of us, long-time residents, newcomers, leaders, etc., can recognize that, in addition to enjoying thriving commerce and great shopping, we ALL want to live in a great community; great communities need strong community institutions and organizations. We all have a role in helping community organizations – schools, civic groups, and churches – grow and thrive and we all benefit from their work. I'm excited about El Paso's future and am so grateful to all of you who generously and tirelessly give of your time, treasure, and effort to the Ridge and its mission of serving this wonderful community we call home.

Thanks!
Pastor Josh

IT'S NOT CHURCH, IT'S HOME

OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

WITH OUR PRAYERS

SYMPATHY

*Family & Friends of Rob Lassiter

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Paula Davis, health concerns

Gayle Kipp, health concerns

Marietta Ervin

Bill & Gylene Bostick, health concerns

THE WORLD

Victims & families affected by violence

People living in war zones

People in the city of Juarez

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Savannah Wood, health concerns

Mora Thomas, 10 month old, health concerns

Ronald Dubson, stepfather of Sarah Spencer, health concerns

Manola Gonzalez, health concerns
Brie Brie

Isaac Clarke Munoz, health concerns

Tootie Fields, health concerns

Mr. & Mrs. Leon Holden, health concerns

Michael Lara

FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

Ron Richards

Debby Carovella

Linda

Michael Canava

Doyle Smith

Pat Travers

Gail Hill

Sandy Capo

Tana Tackett

Hector Salcedo

Sylvia Villagrana

Fred Haberlein

Robert Askelson

Jill Askelson

Rick

Barbara Barnhill

**Indicates a new prayer request this week.*

WITH OUR PRESENCE

July 2, 2017

Worship 174

Sunday School 49

The Ridge 65

July 9, 2017

Worship 213

Sunday School 65

The Ridge 127

July 16, 2017

Worship 203

Sunday School 79

The Ridge 67

July 23, 2017

Worship 171

Sunday School 66

The Ridge 74

July 30, 2017

Worship 143

Sunday School 45

The Ridge 73

WITH OUR GIFTS

Revenue MTD June 2017: \$51,907.16

Expenses MTD June 2017: \$65,931.22

Revenue YTD June 2017: \$369,791.25

Expenses YTD June 2017: \$400,341.33

Revenue Budget YTD June 2017: \$327,363.00

Expense Budget YTD June 2017: \$430,216.50

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.

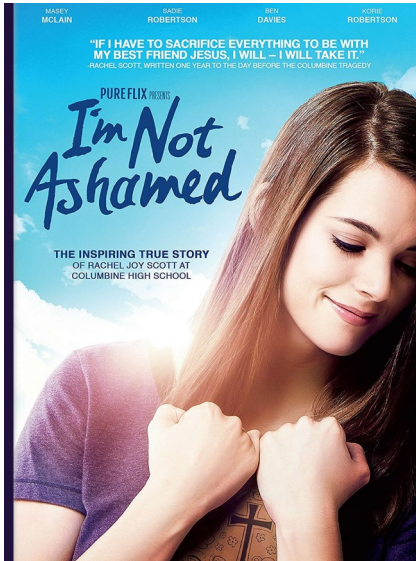
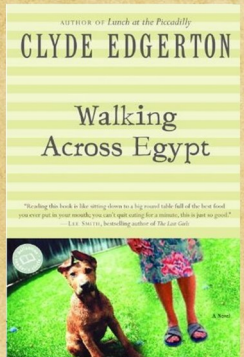


FAITH, FICTION, & FELLOWSHIP
Page Turners

September 14
 7pm - 8:30pm
 SFLC Lobby

Walking Across Egypt
 Clyde Edgerton

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



Join us as we watch I'm Not Ashamed and then spend time in study and discussion of this inspiring true story of Rachel Scott of Columbine High School.

NEW STUDY

Sunday Mornings
 11:00am
 John Wesley Room
 BEGINS AUGUST 20

ACOLYTE TRAINING
FOR CHILDREN GRADES 3 & UP

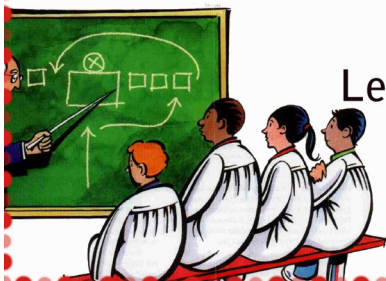
SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Noon

Sanctuary

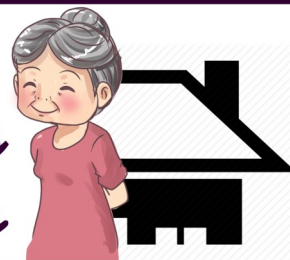
Led by Pastor Robert

Parents: Please plan to stay with your children.



START COLLECTING
 ITEMS FOR

Grandma's Attic



THIS YEAR'S FALL BAZAAR WILL ONCE AGAIN HAVE GRANDMA'S ATTIC. THAT MEANS WE WILL NEED YOUR GENTLY USED TREASURES. AS YOU DO YOUR SUMMER CLEANING, PLEASE SET ASIDE YOUR GOODIES FOR US! **NO CLOTHES/SHOES.** WE WILL HAVE DATES IN OCTOBER FOR YOU TO DROP YOUR ITEMS AT THE CHURCH.



Sunday, August 27th
9:30AM
 Stewart Family Life Center

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

Yearly Safe Sanctuary Training is mandatory for all those who work/volunteer with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.



UMW Circle Meetings

Lydia Circle
 Summer Break

Esther Circle
 Summer Break

Mary Martha
 August 15
 SLFC Mtg Rm
 Hostess: Susan Noble
 Co-Hostess:
 Shirley Morrison
 Program: Bazaar Mtg
 Bring a sack lunch.



NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
August 29th
9:30am
 Program: Landsun Homes
 Host: Lydia Circle

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**WE ARE
HIRING**

THE POSITION REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING:

- *15 HOUR PER WEEK POSITION, INCLUDING SUNDAYS
- *BACHELOR DEGREE IN AN EDUCATION FIELD REQUIRED,
BUT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PREFERRED

INTERESTED CANDIDATES SHOULD SEND THEIR RESUMES TO
CHILDRENSMINISTRY@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG BY AUGUST 18.

FILL THE CAR

WITH DONATIONS OF NEW:



- BLANKETS
- SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- BABY SUPPLIES
- CHILDREN'S SOCKS

Four Corners Native American Ministry

NEWS FROM THE Children's + Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF AUGUST 27

9:30AM * SFLC
PreK- 5th grade

Everyone will meet together in SFLC to meet the teachers and have a brief review of curriculum. The children will then go to the classrooms to work on Service Projects while the parents receive Safe Sanctuary Training.

**Parents will be asked to serve as a "helper" once a quarter and need to have Safe Sanctuary Training.*

CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

CHILDREN'S
CHURCH WILL
START BACK ON
SEPTEMBER 10

PRE-K
THRU
1ST GRADE



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 WE'RE HIS YOUTH

**WHY Fellowship
Sunday Evenings
5:00pm to 7:00pm
Stewart Family Life Center**

Thursday, August 17

Welcome to New Members
Crazy Games & Fellowship
6:00pm to 8:00pm
SFLC

Friday, August 18

Night Paintball
Winkeydoodles Paintball Adventures
6:00pm to 9:00pm
Pick up and Drop off at:
401 Anthony Ave., Canutillo 79835
Cost: \$10

Saturday, August 19

Service Work & Cookout
Jardin de Milagros
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Pick up and Drop off at SFLC
Long Pants and Long Sleeves

Sunday, August 20

Bob-O's Family Fun
Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Pick up and Drop off at:
3851 Constitution Dr., El Paso 79922
Cost: \$15



**Rocky
Mountains
Retreat**

Women's Retreat 2017

FEELING BEACHY?

*join us for a weekend away
with the girls and enjoy*

AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY



October 21 and 22, 2017

Guest Speaker: Holly Stalleup



WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

Ministers

All Members

Margaret Haddad

Director of Music
Ministries

Laurie McBride

Business/Facilities
Manager

Rev. Robert Pelfrey

Senior Pastor

David Pena

Director of Praise
& Worship

Suzy Snow

Administrative
Assistant

Rev. Amy Mercer

Mission & Discipleship

Mitzi Underwood

Director of Youth
Ministries

Mindy Archey

Publications/
Communications

Rev. Josh Kouri

The Ridge

Patricia Aguirre

WH Academy

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