



# Connections

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
OF WESTERN HILLS UMC  
EL PASO, TEXAS**

## CHANGE THE WORLD MAY 15-21, 2017

### EXPERIENCE A 1 DAY MISSION PROJECT

#### Monday, May 15th

6:00—8:00pm

##### Community Concert and reception at Emmanuel UMC

Cherry Duke, UTEP Opera students with Dr. Zeke Mesa will perform an evening concert for residents of the Opportunity Center. A Love Offering will be collected for the Opportunity Center. See the back page of the newsletter for more concert info.

**Team Leader: Jackie Gaines**

#### Wednesday, May 17th

5:00—7:30pm

##### "A Knit-in" in the Narthex—WHUMC

The Prayer Shawl ministry is hosting a mini - knit - a - thon to make 8" knitted or crocheted squares for HIV AIDS blankets that will be assembled by a women's team in South Africa. Bring a sack dinner. Drinks provided. Direction sheets are available with "how-to" instructions for the squares. **Team Leader: Becky Martin**

#### Saturday, May 20th

9:00am—3:00pm

##### Operation Turkey Sandwich Napkins—WHUMC

Location: Western Hills UMC—SFLC Meeting Room  
Come help sew and iron 250+ cloth napkins for our Thanksgiving grace meals. Materials provided. Bring your own portable sewing machine if you choose. Bring a sack lunch, drinks and snacks will be provided: **Team Leader: Jane LaGrone**

*Western Hills UMC, The Ridge, and Christ Community UMC are partnering this year to organize closets, sort supplies, prep to paint, and finish rooms to house incoming mission teams at Fabens.*

#### Friday, May 19th

8:30am—3:00pm

##### Fabens UMC Project: Clean up and Prep Day

We will be sorting out "stuff" from closets, SS rooms, and organizing supplies in the kitchen cabinets and fellowship hall.

**Team Leaders: Dawn and Grant Wheeler, Amy Mercer**

#### Saturday, May 20th

8:00am—3:00pm

##### Fabens UMC Project

Paint closets, paint and assemble bunk beds, install fixtures, stock and organize pantry. Lunch provided by the host church.

**Team Leaders: JR Smith and Josh Kouri**

**CHANGE THE  
WORLDWEEKEND.**



Some projects are limited in team size so please register soon.  
Sign up in narthex or call Pastor Amy at 584-2133

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

# OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

## WITH OUR PRAYERS

### SYMPATHY

\***Steve Haddad & Family**, in the loss of his uncle, Leo Haddad  
 \***Josh Kouri & Family**, in the loss of his grandmother, June Kouri

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

**Victor Mireles**, health concerns  
**Marietta Ervin**, health concerns  
**Allen Bloch**, health concerns  
**Nancy Bloch**, health concerns  
**LaVonne McMillan**, health concerns  
**George Ellis**, health concerns  
**Doyle Smith**, health concerns  
**Ann Rothman**, health concerns  
**Bill & Gylene Bostick**, health concerns

### THE WORLD

Syrian refugees  
 People living in war zones  
 People in the city of Juarez

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

**Jacline Rossol**, niece of Ruth Salinas, health concerns

**Robert O.**, health concerns  
**Dillon & Bekah Duke**, nephew of Cherry Duke, recovery from accident  
**Jackie Ortiz**, niece of Ruth Salinas, health concerns  
**Mary Miller**, mother of Sara Smith, health concerns  
**Gayle Kipp**, health concerns

### FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

**Dane Jackson**  
**Tana Tackett**  
**Hector Salcedo**  
**Arthur Chapa**  
**Joy B.**  
**Debra Towe**  
**Kim Hamilton**  
**Sylvia Villagrana**  
**Fred Haberlein**  
**Robert Askelson**  
**Jill Askelson**  
**Rick**  
**Meredith Galyean**  
**Barbara Barnhill**

\*Indicates a new prayer request this week.

## WITH OUR PRESENCE

### April 2, 2017

Worship ..... 229  
 Sunday School ..... 80  
 The Ridge ..... 77  
 Sidewalk SS ..... 17

### April 9, 2017—Palm Sunday

Worship ..... 247  
 Sunday School ..... 84  
 The Ridge ..... 104  
 Sidewalk SS ..... 20

### April 16, 2017—Easter Sunday

Worship ..... 395  
 Sunday School ..... 87  
 The Ridge ..... 135  
 Sidewalk SS ..... 132

### April 23, 2017

Worship ..... 227  
 Sunday School ..... 86  
 The Ridge ..... 95  
 Sidewalk SS ..... 54

## WITH OUR GIFTS

Revenue MTD March 2017: \$62,279.05  
 Expenses MTD March 2017: \$55,671.19

Revenue YTD March 2017: \$182,780.42  
 Expenses YTD March 2017: \$192,075.44

Revenue Budget YTD March 2017: \$163,681.50  
 Expense Budget YTD March 2017: \$215,108.25

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.





# SPONSOR A FLAG

YOUR GIFT OF \$30 SPONSORS A FLAG TO BE FLOWN AT WESTERN HILLS UMC ON MEMORIAL DAY, FLAG DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY, LABOR DAY, AND VETERANS DAY.

Make checks payable to: WHUMC

If you'd like for the flag to be flown in honor or memory of a loved one, please put that info in the check memo.



FROM THE CREATORS OF "GOD'S NOT DEAD"



DO YOU BELIEVE?

Based on the major motion picture, this study will challenge participants to consider this: if you were ever accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

## NEW STUDY

Sunday Mornings  
11:00am  
John Wesley Room  
BEGINS MAY 14TH

# Mother's Day WORSHIP

May 14  
10:00am

join us for one worship service this mother's day

BLUE BIN COLLECTIONS

MAY 2017

JELLY, JAM,  
CANNED CHICKEN,  
TUNA, SPAM

Fabens Food Pantry

## United Methodist Women's SPRING BAKE SALE

May 7, 2017  
Narthex

Calling ALL Bakers  
Anyone who would like to bake items can bring baked goods to the church on 5/6 from 2-4pm.



All money raised goes to United Methodist Missions.

# VASES NEEDED

3-5 inch in diameter  
no bud vases please

Vases can be left in the Narthex kitchen on Sunday mornings.



FLOWER TEAM

## UMW Circle Meetings

Lydia Circle—May 15  
7:15pm—SFLC Meeting Room

Esther Circle—May 16  
9:30am—John Wesley Room

Mary Martha—May 16  
11:30am—Narthex



RITMO CAMP  
June 19—23  
Entering Grades 7—grad  
Sacramento Camp  
SEE MITZI FOR INFO



# NEWS FROM THE Children's + Ministry

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 12 - 16

8:30AM - 11:50AM



**COST: \$10**

INCLUDES CD & T-SHIRT  
(ONE CD PER FAMILY)

FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE



**AGES 4 YEARS\* TO 6TH GRADE**

\*IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN VBS 2017,  
CHILDREN MUST HAVE TURNED 4 YRS OLD BY SEPT. 1, 2016.

**REGISTER NOW**

**WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG**



**WESTERN HILLS UMC  
524 THUNDERBIRD DR**

Vacation Bible School  
will be here soon!  
The message that the  
children will learn this  
year is a great one...

**BUILT FOR  
A PURPOSE!**



We hope that you  
have already  
registered your  
children. *Deadline to  
register is June 3rd.*  
Now we hope you will  
pass the info along to  
friends, family, and  
neighbors. The flier  
on this page is for  
your use. Print it,  
copy it, take a picture  
of it...whatever works  
for you to spread the  
word about VBS.



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.



Western Hills  
Foundation

## ARE YOU A FRIEND OF THE FOUNDATION?

The Western Hills Foundation is kicking off the 2017-18 *Friends of the Foundation* - “**Today’s Gifts for Tomorrow’s Ministries**” - Campaign in May. The purpose of the campaign is to grow the permanent endowment funds through a **yearly membership**. The Foundation is vital for the present and future growth of our church. Over the past 14 years the Foundation has distributed approximately \$905,000 to a wide variety of ministries, programs, capital improvements, land purchases, furniture/equipment purchases, and many other church needs that are not covered in the operating budget. In 2016 alone, over \$50,000 was distributed for various ministries and maintenance needs of our facility.

We are asking you to **RENEW** your membership to *Friends of the Foundation* with a donation of \$100 for a family and \$50 for an individual. If you have never committed the resources to become a *Friend of the Foundation*, now is your opportunity, and we invite you to join.

Prayerfully consider becoming an **ANNUAL** member of *Friends of the Foundation* and help provide for the growth of Western Hills Ministries!

*The Foundation Board includes Debbie Hand, Ray Marshall, David Rogers, Charlotte Nobles, Martha Jo Cavanna, Bill Hooten, Randolph Young and Nate Peevey.*

**Please contact any member for more information.**

## TODAY'S GIFTS FOR TOMMOROW'S MINISTRIES



# VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

An update and an exercise in “Help, Thanks, & Wow.”

**“I do not know much about God and prayer, but I have come to believe... that there’s something to be said about keeping prayer simple – HELP. THANKS. WOW.”** – Anne Lammott

Over the past few months I have been updating you on our process of searching for a new meeting location. Over those months, Anne Lammott’s observation has always been in the back of my mind and in the forefront of my prayers. Using those themes, let me fill you in on the progress we are making toward leading The Ridge to its next phase in ministry.

**HELP** – Last month, our New Directions team submitted a proposal to the Conference committee on New Church Development requesting financial assistance for renting a dedicated space for the congregation to meet, worship, study, and grow. We have a few locations in mind (none of them set in stone) but we knew we could not afford the rent without some kind of outside assistance. Along with our grant proposal, we as a congregation went to God in prayer on April 23 to say “Help!”

**THANKS**- On April 25, the Conference committee met and approved our request. We now have the means to secure a visible and appealing space for the congregation’s next faithful steps! The New Mexico Conference has pledged to continue this support for the next three years while we continue to grow and develop. At that time, it will be very important that we be self-sustaining. We are so thankful to the New Mexico Conference for their vote of confidence in the potential they see in The Ridge. Likewise, we came back on April 30 to God in prayer to say “Thanks!”

**WOW** – I find myself saying “wow” all the time as I serve with the congregation at The Ridge. God’s Spirit is so alive and vibrantly active in this little congregation. As we have pursued a space, the people of The Ridge have worked diligently, given generously, prayed faithfully, and waited patiently. I believe we will soon be in our “Promised Land,” a space where we can grow and thrive.

**OUR NEXT FAITHFUL STEPS** – In the near future, we hope to finalize a proposed new location. At that point, we will call a Church Conference so that the people of Western Hills and The Ridge have the chance to meet, vote, and celebrate The Ridge’s future. This conference may happen in the very near future. We will keep you posted. For now, thanks to everyone at The Ridge and Western Hills who have been so faithfully supportive over these last days, weeks, months, and years. The Ridge is doing critically important work in our neighborhood so that our friends and neighbors might know Jesus’ love and amazing grace. We are close to reaching our goal and envisioning new ones for the future. Stay tuned for more news from The Ridge!

*Pastor Josh*

## CHANGE THE WORLD WEEKEND IS COMING! May 19-21

*The Ridge will be participating in 3 exciting projects to serve our community. Sign up today to join in!*

### **Franklin Heights Nursing Home Rehab and Plarn Making**

Join us as we serve Franklin Heights Nursing Home. We’ll be painting and sprucing up the place. Additionally, we’ll work with the residents to make “plarn,” yarn made from plastic grocery bags and turned into sleeping mats for street persons.

### **Clint/Fabens Mission Station Setup**

Come out to the far East Side as we join Western Hills UMC in setting up an exciting new mission station in Clint, TX. This mission station will be a destination for youth and mission teams who want to serve the needy in this community. We will be assembling bunk beds.

### **Franklin Heights Ice Cream Party**

On Sunday, May 21, we will celebrate with the Franklin Heights residents over ice-cream and a movie.

**CHANGE THE  
WORLDWEEKEND.**

**Signups are available on Sunday mornings at The Ridge or by contacting Fred Palm, Morgan Peabody, or Josh Kouri. Mark your calendars and join us as we change our community and change the world!**

# IT'S NOT CHURCH, IT'S HOME



# SUMMER DAY CAMP

at WESTERN HILLS ACADEMY

524 Thunderbird Dr.

June 1 thru August 18

**Monday-Friday**

**7:30am-5:30PM**

AGES 1YR – 10YRS

BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROVIDED

Weekly activities will include thematic units for arts and crafts, singing and skits, reading, computer time, group games, and environmental projects.

**REGISTRATION: \$25 PER FAMILY**

WEEKLY TUITION PER CHILD: \$130

DAILY TUITION: \$26 (MINIMUM OF 2 DAYS PER WEEK)

The University of Texas at El Paso Department of Music presents

# OPERA UTEP

in concert

UTEP voice students sing songs, arias and ensembles from opera and musical theater. Hear the stars of the future perform with Dr. Esequiel Meza at the piano, directed by Cherry Duke. With special guest, Nathan Black, cellist.

**Monday, May 15, 2017 ☆ 6:00 p.m.**

The Opportunity Center @ Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
1201 Magoffin Avenue, El Paso, Texas

☆ **FREE ADMISSION** ☆



REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE CONCERT

## 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

### Colleen McGuire

Director of Children's  
Ministries

### Patricia Aguirre

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