

LET THE WHOLE EARTH BE FILLED WITH HIS GLORY.

Connections

SEPTEMBER 2017

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC * EL PASO, TEXAS

SUNDAYS AT WHUMC

NEW SCHEDULE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 10

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30am & 11:00am
Sanctuary
Nursery Provided
8:15am—12pm (Room C7)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:45am
Classes for all ages.

Growing Together

As I announced recently, on September 10th we will be taking a step forward in our worship life. We will move our 9:30 contemporary worship experience into our 11:00 hour, reimagining how we worship...together. In addition to uniting us as a worshipping family, this will also open the 9:45 hour for greater participation in current and new Sunday school classes. The Sunday morning schedule beginning Sept. 10th will be: **8:30 worship; 9:45 Sunday school; 11:00 worship.**

I've been discussing this with the Leadership Board, music leaders, and others for two years, building on the earlier work of the Task Force. And I am convinced it is the direction God is leading Western Hills at this time. Here are some of the reasons:

Community. Jesus calls us to unity. And God has given us the gift of music, not to divide us, but to unite us in praise.

Relationships. We need to prioritize small groups and create opportunities during our prime meeting time on Sunday mornings for more people to be involved.

Tradition. The rich tradition of over 1500 years of hymnody needs to be handed on to new generations. However, those generations will not come if their own voice is not also represented.

Growth. There is as much good, God-honoring music being written today as at any time in church history. But, while some are missing out on the classics, others are missing out on "singing to the Lord a new song."

I hope you are as excited about these next steps as many of us are! If it's been a while since you've worshipped with us and/or been involved in a Sunday school class, this is a great time to jump back in. And if you are a regular worshiper, I hope you will get to know some new people in your church family. Remember, we're all in this together. See you Sunday!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Robert

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

OUR FAITHFULNESS IN MINISTRY

WITH OUR PRAYERS

SYMPATHY

*Friends & Family of Sandy Capo
Bob Phillips & Family, in the loss of
his brother, Mike

Richard Kurzweg, brother of Dave
Kurzweg, health concerns
Terry Sullivan

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Tom Davis, health concerns
Ron Wood, health concerns
Gayle Kipp, health concerns
Marietta Ervin
Bill & Gylene Bostick, health
concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

Jacob Sotello
Bob Sneed
Ron Richards
Debby Carovella
Linda
Michael Canava
Doyle Smith
Pat Travers
Gail Hill
Tana Tackett
Hector Salcedo
Sylvia Villagrana
Fred Haberlein
Robert Askelson
Jill Askelson
Rick
Barbara Barnhill

THE WORLD

Those suffering from hurricanes
and floods
Those dealing with wildfires
People living in war zones
People in the city of Juarez

FAMILY & FRIENDS

*Michelle Theriot, cousin of Charles
Spencer, health concerns
*Susan Coloduros, health concerns
Heidi Alarcon

**Indicates a new
prayer request this week.*

WITH OUR PRESENCE

August 6, 2017

Worship 180
Sunday School 69
The Ridge 98

August 20, 2017

Worship 189
Sunday School 65
The Ridge 74

August 13, 2017

Worship 205
Sunday School 62
The Ridge 92

August 27, 2017

Worship 213
Sunday School 79
The Ridge 86

WITH OUR GIFTS

Revenue MTD July 2017: \$56,983.65
Expenses MTD July 2017: \$70,288.01

Revenue YTD July 2017: \$426,674.90
Expenses YTD July 2017: \$470,688.04

Revenue Budget YTD July 2017: \$386,288.34
Expense Budget YTD July 2017: \$507,655.47

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



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.



WHY

WE'RE HIS YOUTH

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

Sun., Sept. 10
Confirmation Begins
9:45 a.m. Classroom C11

Sun., Sept. 17
Youth Led Event

Fri., Sept. 22
WHY Sleepover
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Sun., Oct. 8
La Union Corn Maze
Family/Churchwide Event
3:00 to 7:00 p.m.



YOUTH WEEK 2017

THANK YOU

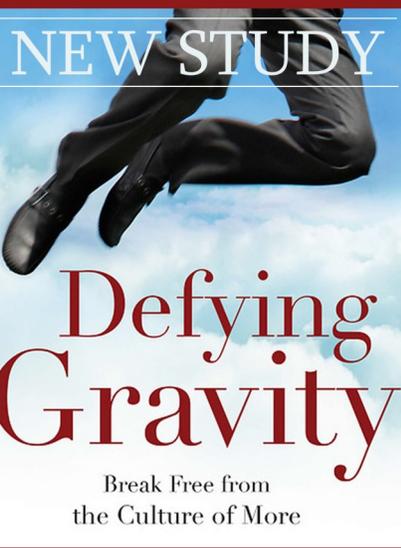
THE KELLY MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY GRATEFULLY THANKS ALL OF THOSE WHO DONATED FOOD TO FEED THE CHILDREN THIS SUMMER. YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE

Practical Christian Living Class

(formally Cheers Class)

Sunday Mornings
9:45am
Room C2
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 17

Instead of enjoying the freedom to bless others with the best of our lives, we feel trapped. We are held down and held back by forces that seem beyond our control. But there is good news! Jesus offers us a way to defy gravity and break free from the culture of more.



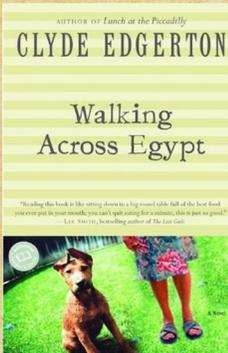
NEW STUDY
Defying Gravity
Break Free from the Culture of More

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



DISCIPLE

DISCIPLE I STARTING 9/17

BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Study Manual
Second Edition



**SUNDAYS
2:30PM-5:00PM**

John Welsey Rm
Sign up TODAY
in the Narthex.

Led by Amy Mercer, Jack Phillips, Paul Wilson

CHURCH WIDE NIGHT OUT AT LA UNION MAZE

**3PM-7PM
OCTOBER 8TH**

**POTLUCK
DEVOTIONAL
& LOTS OF FUN**

\$11 PER PERSON

INCLUDES MAZE, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES & HAYRIDE

BRING YOUR 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 FALL CLEANING, PLEASE SET ASIDE YOUR GOODIES FOR US! **NO CLOTHES/SHOES.**
DROP OFF YOUR ITEMS ON OCT 8TH 12 TO 2PM - USE THE SFLC SIDE DOOR



Lydia Circle
September 18
7:15PM SFLC
Hostess: Taryn Raley
Devotion: Taryn Raley
Program: Sarah Spencer

Esther Circle
September 19
9:30AM
John Wesley Rm
Hostess: TBA
Devotion: Bea Lindwall
Program: TBA

Mary Martha
September 19
11:30AM
Hostess: Pollyanna Davis
CoHostess: Carol Pancoast and Sara Smith
Program: Bazaar Meeting
Love Offering: Bring a silent auction item.

UMW Circle Meetings



The Women's Retreat Team is excited to bring back Mended Women for this year's retreat. Holly Stallcup and Alex Young are delightful and inspiring. The mission of Mended Women is equipping God's people to love women and build them up in the Body of Christ. Holly Stallcup is the

founder & Executive Director of Mended Women. People are her passion. Rest for her is hot tea, good books, painted nails & delicious food shared with good people.

Below are testimonies from those who were part of our 2015 retreat that Holly led:

"To be with all the ladies who received me with open arms. They all made me feel that they were waiting just for me to arrive. I was made to feel what the Bible speaks of, the 99 sheep that were left to go find the one. I know I'm sounding like it's all about me, but it's about letting go and letting me fill my well so I can have strength to carry on. I didn't have to think of doing for someone else this weekend."

"I so much enjoyed getting to know more women. I grew closer to the person I roomed with. Such a great way to get to know and bond with women from both churches."

"GREAT FELLOWSHIP AND A WONDERFUL LEADER WHO LISTENED AND MADE US FEEL COMFORTABLE."

"Loved the service project; what a great way to bring us together!"

"The time spent in small groups, sharing each other's experiences."

"The overwhelming gifts of love from the team. Every time I went back to my room, I found more treats left just for me."

"I loved everything about the retreat. It was my first time, and I can't wait until next year. I was in awe of the leaders from Mended Ministries. Beautiful words, hearts and songs. The wonderful thing that happened is all the new friends I made and that I found some peace that I so needed."

This year's event is Oct. 21 and 22, at Holy Cross Retreat Center. Cost: \$125
Registration opens Sept. 10— Register at WHUMC/The Ridge or online at westernhillsep.org. Contact Mitzi Underwood at 915-449-4476 with any questions.



ON LABOR DAY, FLAGS WERE FLOWN AT WHUMC

IN HONOR OF:

William P. Hooten
Maj. Matthew D. Knepper
Lt. Frymire
CWO4 Manny Gonzalez USA, Retired
Lyle Fraka
Ryan Harper
Richard Kusserow
Bob Cooley

IN MEMORY OF:

Jerry Moe
Col. A. R. Cavanna Jr
Col. Joseph P. Rice
Harrison and
Mr. & Mrs. Kohl
Richard Maxey
George Ernst
Porter Farmer

Oliver Kusserow
Bob Farmer
Michael Hardin
D. D. Bowers
Art Peevey
Mike and Jack Wilson
Bruce Keefer
Ralph Keefer

NEWS FROM THE Children's + Ministry

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



PreK - 1st grade:

Room C8

2nd - 5th grade:

Room C9

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SUNDAYS DURING
THE 11AM SERVICE
FOLLOWING
CHILDREN'S TIME
(11:15AM)

PRE-K
THRU
1ST GRADE

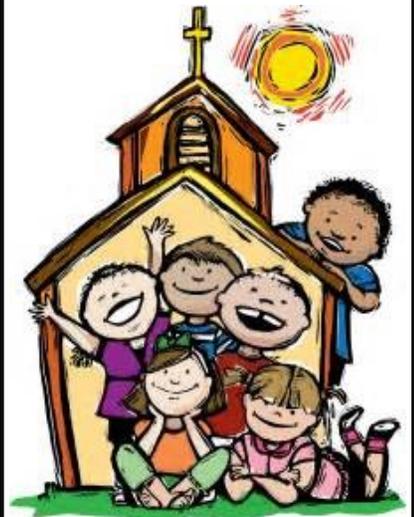
ROOM C8

3RD GRADE BIBLES



**3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION
OCTOBER 15TH AT 11:00AM WORSHIP**

**IF YOU HAVE A 3RD GRADER (OR 4TH OR 5TH GRADER
WHO HASN'T RECEIVED A BIBLE) PLEASE CALL THE
CHURCH OFFICE SO WE ARE SURE WE INCLUDE YOUR
CHILD IN THE UPCOMING BIBLE PRESENTATION.**



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.**

VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

Introducing the Faith 5

A time for families with children or teens to draw close to Jesus together!

What happens to children and teens who check in with their parents every night before going to bed?

What happens to a family that shares highs and lows, scripture, talk, prayer and blessing most every night of their lives? What are the psychological, sociological, and theological benefits a child receives when they are given consistent and intentional care before drifting off to sleep each night?

How might a simple, five-step faith practice change a child, a teen, a family, and the world?

Beginning this September, The Ridge will support its families through the Faith 5 – a simple, doable, and meaningful process of family devotions every evening. Through the Faith 5, families are encouraged to come together each evening to:



SHARE

Share highs and lows from the day.



READ

Read a short passage of scripture.



TALK

Talk about how the scripture might speak to the highs and lows from the day.



PRAY

Pray for one another.



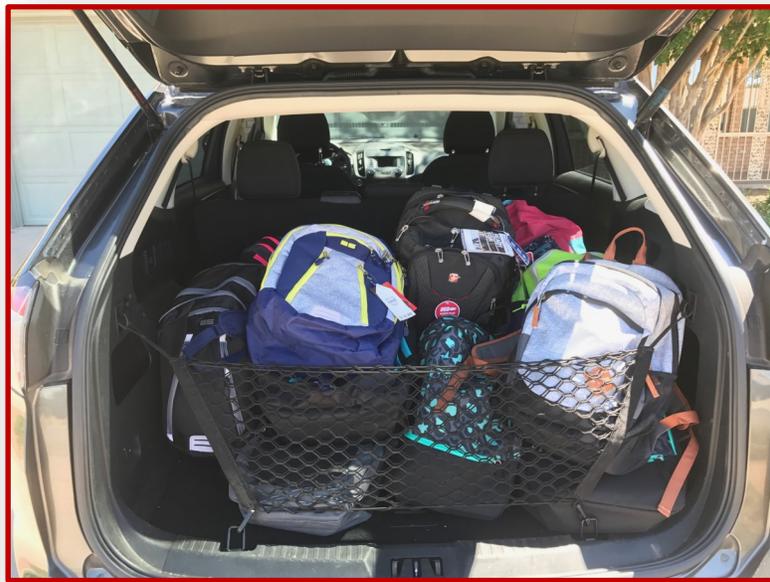
BLESS

Bless one another.

Each week, the Faith 5 scriptures will be posted in the worship bulletin and Ridge Facebook page. This can be a transformative and life-giving ritual for your family!

For more info on Faith 5, contact Pastor Josh.

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR FAITH 5 TODAY?



Thanks to all for supporting this year's school supply collection for the students at Hut Brown Middle School. Thanks to your generosity, The Ridge was able to provide supplies for 21 students. You make a big difference in our community!

**ARE YOU
READY
FOR THE
21 DAY
FINANCIAL
FAST?**

**SUNDAY AFTERNOONS
THIS OCTOBER
LOOK FOR MORE INFO SOON!**



SELF DEFENSE CLASS

Saturdays at 12:30pm

Gracie Barra Jiu-Jitsu Gym

125 Graphite Dr. (behind O'Reilly Auto Parts on Doniphan Dr.)

STARTS SEPTEMBER 16th

Led by Jordan Mondello

OPEN TO MEN & WOMEN OF ALL AGES

SEE JORDAN FOR MORE INFO

Wall of Crosses

The most recognizable Christian symbol around the world is the cross.



Often intense thoughts and emotions come to us at the image of the cross upon which Jesus gave His life as a sacrifice for ours. With that in mind, we are embarking on creating a Wall of Crosses in the Narthex at Western Hills UMC.

If you have a special cross that you would like to donate to the wall please talk to Pastor Amy or Margaret Haddad.

When we have collected the crosses we will place them on the wall in a pleasing design which will then be framed. We are looking for a variety of sizes and materials. If your cross has a special story, i.e. in memory or honor of someone, gotten on a special trip, etc., please write a short note telling us about it so we can then create a brochure featuring each cross.

WELCOME

It was recently announced that Jenny Abbott has been hired as the Director of Children's Ministries at WHUMC. We are delighted to have Jenny on staff at Western Hills. Jenny and her family have been active at the church for quite some time, so many of you may already know her. If you haven't had the pleasure yet, you are encouraged to introduce yourself to Jenny.



A LITTLE ABOUT JENNY ABBOTT...

I was raised in Hobbs, NM as the middle child in a family of five children. If the doors were open at First United Methodist Church, my parents, my siblings and I were there. My work in Children's Ministry began as an accompanist of the Children's Choir when I was about 15 years old. I have served in several churches in the New Mexico Conference as both paid staff and as a volunteer over the past 30 years.

My family means the world to me. When I'm not at the church, my husband Bruce, and I are busy running our business, Abbott's Pest Management. Our four children are now spread across each of the 4 time zones. Our oldest daughter, Laney, is student teaching in Denton, TX. Our middle daughter, Grace, is attending Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. Our son, Simon, is attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ. And our youngest daughter, Bonnie, is a sophomore at Loretto Academy here in El Paso. When I do find a spare moment or two, I enjoy needlework, reading, and playing the piano.

I am excited to see what God has planned for the Children's Ministry of WHUMC. I am looking forward to working together with the staff and the church to bring those plans to fruition.



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El Paso, TX 79912**

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WH Academy: (915) 584-6642

WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

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 Pena
Director of Praise
& Worship

Mitzi Underwood
Director of Youth
Ministries

Jenny Abbott
Director of Children's
Ministries

Laurie McBride
Business/Facilities
Manager

Suzu Snow
Administrative
Assistant

Mindy Archey
Publications/
Communications

Patricia Aguirre
WH Academy

SUNDAYS AT WHUMC

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30am and 11:00am (Sanctuary)

Nursery Provided

8:15am—12pm (Room C7)

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

9:45am—10:45am

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

PreK - 1st grade: Rm C8

2nd - 5th grade: Rm C9

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

6th—12th grade: Rm C12

CONFIRMATION

6th grade & up: Rm C11

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adventure: SFLC Meeting Rm

John Wesley: John Wesley Rm

New Life: Rm C3 (under stairs)

Open Door: SFLC Lobby

Practical Christian Living: C2

Table Talk: Library

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children grades PreK—1st Grade are invited to Children's Church (Rm C8) following Children's Time (11:15am) during the 11:00am worship service.

Contact: Jenny Abbott

WHY—WESTERN HILLS YOUTH

6th-12th grade Sundays @ 5:00pm
Food, Fellowship, & Bible Study—SFLC

Contact: Mitzi Underwood

Adventure Class:

Stewart Family Life Center, Mtg Rm
The Adventure Class discusses thought-provoking books and their questions. Beginning in September, we will read The Rewritten Life: When God Changes Your Story by Jessica LaGrone. Its chapters include Abraham, Ruth, Peter, and the unnamed woman.

Contact: Bob LaGrone

John Wesley Class:

John Wesley Room (off Narthex)
This fall (September – November) we will be studying the scriptures from the new revised common lectionary each week. The scriptures are distributed to be read aloud and discussed, requiring no preparation. We pray for each other, study with each other and enjoy lively discussion.

Contact: Larry Ellzey

New Life Class:

Room C3 (under the stairs)
We are a discussion class for adults of all ages and stages. Beginning September 10, our discussions will be guided by the six session book and video God's Story, Your Story by Max Lucado. We will be discussing how your daily life relates to God's grand, epic story.

Contact: Mary Bell Haney

Open Door Sunday Class:

Stewart Family Life Center, Lobby
Open doors and open minds lead to lively, provocative discussions and exchange of ideas. We enjoy our varied studies from many acclaimed Christian authors, as well as the occasional party! Visitors are always welcome, and the door is always open.

Contact: Frank & ZoeDean Middleton

Practical Christian Living Class:

Room C2
We study Christian books and movies to explore practical issues that confront us (e.g., living ethical lives, finding meaning in our work, managing finances, using prayer to deal with difficult problems, understanding other religions). Our studies and discussions will be consistent with the biblical principles of our Christian faith and the traditions of the United Methodist Church.

Contact: Nancy Haegele

Table Talk-Five Marks of a Methodist:

Library
This is a six-week study led by Pastor Robert. It asks the question, "How should Methodists live?" The focus is spiritual growth and character formation, with relevant study and engaging conversation based on the Bible, John Wesley's teaching, and our daily lives.

Contact: Pastor Robert