

MARCH 2018

Connections

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC * EL PASO, TEXAS

HOLY WEEK AT WESTERN HILLS UMC



3/25: PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP - 8:30AM & 11AM

3/29: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE - 7PM

3/30: GOOD FRIDAY EVENTS

- **MT. CRISTO REY HIKE - 8AM**
- **SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRAYER - NOON TO 3PM**
- **RIDGE GOOD FRIDAY GATHERING - 6:30PM**

4/1: EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP - 8:30AM & 11AM

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



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

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Harold Alexander, health concerns
Joy Kaerwer, health concerns
Edna Ely, health concerns
Ida Mae Ellis, health concerns
Tom Davis, health concerns
Bill Bostick, health concerns
Bob Phillips, health concerns
Esther Reynolds, health concerns
Gylene Bostick, health concerns
Gayle Kipp, health concerns

THE WORLD

Victims of violence in Parkland, FL
 People living in war zones
 People in the city of Juarez

FAMILY & FRIENDS

***John Rudinger**, health concerns
 ***Tres Sharp**, 4 year old burn victim
 ***Gay & Rick Super**, health concerns
 ***Carlton & Carmen Tedrick**, health concerns
Lera Powell
Tony C., health concerns

Lea Magruder, health concerns
Joyce Snead, health concerns
Kelly Phillips, health concerns
Adelynn, premature baby of Kelly Phillips

FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

Debbie Sites
Linda Daniels, mother of Christy Gasman
Mike Cook
Billy
Rosemary Graves
Jacob Sotello
Bob Snead
Ron Richards
Debby Carovella
Linda
Michael Canava
Pat Travers
Gail Hill
Hector Salcedo
Sylvia Villagrana
Fred Haberlein
Robert Askelson
Jill Askelson
Rick

WITH OUR PRESENCE

February 4, 2018

Worship208
 Sunday School99
 The Ridge83
 Sidewalk SS31

February 11, 2018

Worship201
 Sunday School65
 The Ridge70
 Sidewalk SS26

February 18, 2018

Worship203
 Sunday School87
 The Ridge76
 Sidewalk SS n/a

February 25, 2018

Worship197
 Sunday School101
 The Ridge66
 Sidewalk SS n/a

WITH OUR GIFTS

Revenue YTD January 2018: \$46,699.09
 Expenses YTD January 2018: \$65,533.22

Revenue Budget YTD January 2018: \$55,212.50
 Expense Budget YTD January 2018: \$72,287.25
If you would like further detail, please call Laurie in the church office. (584.2133)



Holy Week

**PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP—MARCH 25
8:30AM AND 11:00AM**




maundy thursday service
MARCH 29 + 7:00PM + SANCTUARY

WESTERN HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mt. Cristo Rey Pilgrimage



Friday, March 30
MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 8AM
Join others from WHUMC & The Ridge for the annual pilgrimage to the top of Mt. Cristo Rey.



Let Us Pray

GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 30
NOON - 3PM
SANCTUARY


The Sanctuary will be open for a time of quiet reflection and prayer. You are invited to come for as short or long of time as you wish.

This Is What We Saw

A JOURNEY WITH THREE WITNESSES TO THE CROSS
A DRAMATIC RETELLING OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND THE PEOPLE WHO SAW IT HAPPEN

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30 THE RIDGE

IMPERIAL RIDGE PARK
6:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP—APRIL 1
8:30AM AND 11:00AM



11th Annual Youth Mystery Dinner Theater
proudly presented by the Western Hills UMC Youth

APRIL 20 & 21, 2018



**GOING ONCE...
GOING TWICE**

**BLUE BIN
COLLECTIONS**

**MARCH
2018**

**Opportunity
Center**

**RICE
BEANS
SUGAR**

**OR MAKE A DONATION TOWARDS
THE PURCHASE OF GROUND BEEF**

FAITH, FICTION, & FELLOWSHIP
Page Turners

April 12
7:00PM
SFLC Lobby

Can't Wait to Get to Heaven
Fannie Flagg



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

session two



**Sunday, March 25
5:00 - 7:00pm
SFLC Meeting Room
childcare provided**

ALL PARENTS INVITED
(PARENTS OF YOUNG, TEEN, OR EVEN ADULT CHILDREN)
TEACH/VOLUNTEER WITH KIDS? YOU ARE INVITED TOO!

**CHILDCARE PROVIDED
INFANT THRU 5TH GRADE**

Purposeful Parenting...
a new ministry designed to create a
community of loving support



United Methodist Women

**MARCH
CIRCLE
MEETINGS**

ESTHER

March 20
9:30am
John Wesley Room

MARY MARTHA

March 20
11:30am
SFLC Mtg Room



April General Meeting
Tuesday, April 3
9:30am - Narthex



*In Lieu
of Lilies*

Monies from this year's *in lieu
of lilies* will support our
Change the World 2018 projects.

\$10

COME TO THE TABLE
WAY FORWARD LISTENING SESSIONS



STAY INFORMED
BE HEARD
LISTEN TO OTHERS

Approximately 120 people attended the El Paso District listening session on "A Way Forward," held at Western Hills on Sunday, February 18. We will have a church-wide discussion in April.

Notes from the session can be found at <http://www.westernhillsep.org/meeting-minutes/>

NEWS FROM THE Children's + Ministry



Be sure to keep an eye on our caterpillar in the Narthex. Some exciting changes are coming!

All children and their parents are invited to help with the Sidewalk Sunday School Easter Party on March 31. Contact Jenny Abbott for more info.



Our children's Sunday school classes recently made Valentine's for our homebound members. The ones pictured above, and about 25 more, were delivered by the Care Ministry to our homebound members thanks to Barbara Kusserow and her team.

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



March 11 and 18	Spring Break	<i>No WHY Fellowship</i>
Sun., March 25	Purposeful Parenting	5:00 to 7:00 p.m., SFLC Mtg. Rm.
Holy Thursday, Mar 29	Youth Participation in Worship	7:00 p.m., Sanctuary
Good Friday, Mar 30	Mt. Cristo Rey Pilgrimage	8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Sat., March 31	Sidewalk Sunday School	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Easter, April 1	Confirmation at 11:00 Svc	Confirmation Luncheon 12:30
	<i>No WHY Fellowship</i>	
April 18 & 19	Dress Rehearsals	5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
April 20 & 21	Show Time	4:30 to 10:00 p.m.
Sat., April 21	Cast and Crew Party	10:30 p.m. to Midnight
Sun., April 22	Purposeful Parenting	5:00 to 7:00 p.m., SFLC Mtg. Rm.
	<i>No WHY Fellowship</i>	



CCYM
Sr. High



ROC
Mid
High

VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

Greetings from The Ridge as we experience this Lenten Season! My personal theme and discipline for Lent this year is prayer. Because of the season, and because of our congregation's season in life, prayer has grown from a daily habit to a near constant theme in my life over the last few weeks.

On the subject of prayer, Anne Lammott writes: "I do not know much about God and prayer, but I have come to believe, over the past twenty-five years, that there's something to be said for keeping prayer simple. **Help. Thanks. Wow.** ... That's all I ever need." In that spirit, I need your help and your prayers along these same 3 themes. When you read this, would you consider joining me in a vigil of prayer between now and Easter Sunday?

Please pray with me on the following themes:

Help – We are so excited about the new possibilities for the Ridge as we open our new building space. But we need God's help as we finish the final touches. Please pray for our congregation as this challenging process nears completion, and as we prepare for a change.

Thanks - On a theological note, Lent reminds us that to arrive at Easter and Resurrection, Jesus chose a path that included the cross and death. I'm trying to remember to say, "Thanks," to God for that big sacrifice for us. This is the essence of the Gospel.

Wow - The Ridge is excited about this year's confirmation class. We began on January 28 with 2 interested students. The next week, we had 3. The week after, we had 5 in attendance. Last Sunday, we had 8 students in attendance. The growth in class size over time is both unusual and exciting. Some of our students have been a part of the Ridge since the beginning. Others attended church for the first time and joined our class the same afternoon. Wow! I am in awe of the spirit and openness of the students as well as the ways God works in their lives. This group is coming together and our young people's faith is coming alive. It's worth praying twice on this one. WOW! I am indescribably thankful for the prayers of everyone at the Ridge and Western Hills. Please know, that I pray for all of you every day as well. As we pray together – help, thanks, and wow – I have faith that God hears us and takes joy in our shared life.

Blessings!
Pastor Josh



The sign is up, and we're getting close to opening our new location at 5500 Doniphan. An exact opening date will soon be publicized. We are so excited for this new phase in our congregation's story!



We have helpers of all sizes and gifts helping get the new Ridge location ready!

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken
Ecclesiastes 4:12

A Cord of Three Strands
MUTUAL SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP
FOR MARRIED COUPLES OF ALL AGES AND PLACES IN LIFE

April 4
FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
BRING A DISH TO SHARE
Child care provided - RSVP needed by April 1 if childcare is needed.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT SAL AND YADIRA PERALES.

The most rewarding, challenging, and life-giving relationship you will have in life is with your spouse. Study the Word together and grow closer with other couples.

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GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30 THE RIDGE
IMPERIAL RIDGE PARK
6:30PM

IT'S NOT CHURCH,
IT'S HOME



Come to the Mountain for some...

PEACE



And



Rock'n Prayer

Sprinkled with lots of laughter

April 26th - 29th
2018

Springtime Adult Retreat

Peace

- Hiking
- Crafts
- Porch sitting
- Sing-a-longs
- Campfire

- * Massages by Brenda Crowe
- * ATV Riding
- * Horseback riding



Love Prayer



- Devotions by Walt Case
- Sermons by Roland McGregor
- Bible Study/Prayer time by Pat Dunn & Sara Sroufe
- Music by Dacia Lust
- Food by Sacramento

Laughter

- Games
- Photo Shoot
- 1960's Themed Talent Show



* Extra Fees

Springtime Adult Retreat — April 26-29

This retreat is designed for the young-at-heart! It's a 60's theme this year, so come to the mountain for some Peace, Love, and Rock'in Prayer (and lots of laughter, of course.) Adults of all ages welcome. Learn more: <http://sacramentocamp.org/activities-events/other-events>

JOIN THE VBS FUN
JUNE 25 - 29



SEE JENNY IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING

MOM'S
night out



Fun, Fellowship, and of course - Food!

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

6:00PM

ANGRY OWL (4799 N MESA)

NO NEED TO RSVP
JUST COME!
questions? see
jenny abbott



WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

Ministers

All Members

Rev. Robert Pelfrey
Senior Pastor

Rev. Amy Mercer
Mission & Discipleship

Rev. Josh Kouri
The Ridge

Mitzi Underwood

Director of Youth
Ministries

Jenny Abbott
Director of Children's
Ministries

David Pena
Director of Praise
& Worship

Nancy Bickley
Minister of Music

Laurie McBride

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