

Connections

BE LOVE.

BELONG. BELIEVE. BE USEFUL.

MARCH 2019

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC * EL PASO, TEXAS

Western Hills UMC Youth

Mystery Dinner Theater

April 12 & 13, 2019

Who's cookin' up a scrumptious meal and who's cookin' up a shady scheme to win a charity competition? Be our guest at an elite gala where three celebrity chefs including Patty Deen, Gordy Whimsey, and Rochelle Ray battle to lead their teams to victory. Pairs will

fight for votes but when the coveted grand prize starts slipping away, will the mischief of self-absorbed, win-at-all-costs celebrities bring the evening's events to a halt? Or will the audience help solve the mystery and crown the true victor?



Tickets go on sale Sunday, March 17.

\$25/PERSON OR \$200/TABLE

\$300/VIP TABLE



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

SYMPATHY

*Family & Friends of Arturo Cerda

David Warren
Jessica, daughter of Sharon King, health concerns

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

*Marie Conn, health concerns
*Duane Coleman, health concerns
Elsa Jernigan, health concerns
LaVonne McMillan, health concerns
Frank Harrison, health concerns
Ida Mae Ellis, health concerns
Bill Bostick
Gylene Bostick

FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

*Bob Snead
Tom Lothamer
Sharon King
Jeff Jacobsen
Courtney
Ron Banas
Robbie Anderson
Shannon
Melissa Cheeseman
Linda Hengst
Steve's daughter
Eva Mowad
David Breitling
Carmen Carmona
Babette Lucas
Roy Van Nostrand
Catherine Laje
Sylvia Villagrana
Robert Askelson
Jill Askelson
Rick

THE WORLD

Traveling safety for immigrant families being reunited
The people of Nicaragua
People in the city of Juarez

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Krystal, health concerns
Mike Mason, health concerns
Beverly Laiks

WITH OUR PRESENCE

February 3, 2019

Worship 201
Sunday School..... 82
The Ridge..... 70
Sidewalk SS..... n/a

February 17, 2019

Worship 163
Sunday School..... 67
The Ridge..... 65
Sidewalk SS..... n/a

February 10, 2019

Worship 186
Sunday School..... 75
The Ridge..... 78
Sidewalk SS..... n/a

February 24, 2019

Worship 175
Sunday School..... 80
The Ridge..... 74
Sidewalk SS..... n/a

WITH OUR GIFTS

Revenue MTD January 2019: \$42,121.27
Expenses MTD January 2019: \$64,330.78

Revenue Budget YTD 2019: \$53,912.83
Expenses Budget YTD 2019: \$71,303.00

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

MARCH 19



UNITED METHODIST
WOMEN

ESTHER CIRCLE @ 9:30AM
MARY MARTHA CIRCLE @ 11:30AM

Singles Ladies' Lunch
MARCH 10 AT 12:30PM
State Line
 Sunland Park

CALL DIANE JACKSON AT 581- 0422
 FOR MORE INFORMATION.
 MEET AFTER THE 11AM SERVICE, BY BUILDING C,
 IF YOU WISH TO CARPOOL.
 PLEASE BE PROMPT - WE MUST ALL BE PRESENT TO BE SEATED.

purposeful PARENTING

MARCH 24
 5:00PM - 7:00PM
 SFLC Meeting Rm

OPEN TO ALL
 PARENTS OF YOUNG, TEEN, OR ADULT CHILDREN
 TEACH/VOLUNTEER WITH KIDS? YOU ARE INVITED TOO

PURPOSEFUL PARENTING...
 A MINISTRY DESIGNED TO CREATE
 A COMMUNITY OF LOVING SUPPORT

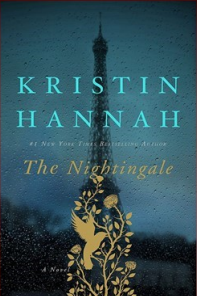


FAITH, FICTION, & FELLOWSHIP

Page Turners

APRIL 11
7:00PM
LIBRARY
 NO MARCH GATHERING


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



MUSIC
News

Our choir is blessed to have two UTEP vocal students singing in the choir with us. You are invited to take a moment and get to know them after worship on April 7.

When: Sunday, April 7 after 11am Worship
Where: The Narthex



**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA**

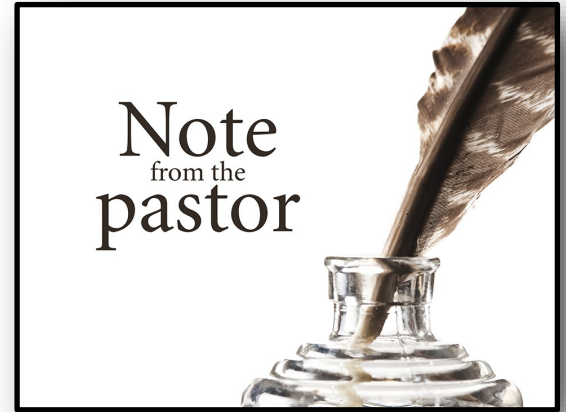
FACEBOOK:
WESTERN HILLS UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH—EL PASO
INSTAGRAM:
WESTERNHILLSMETHODIST





Dear Western Hills Family,

As you likely know, we have been discussing and praying for the called session of the United Methodist General Conference (GC). Last week, nearly 900 lay and clergy delegates and many others gathered in St. Louis from all over the world to discern and decide on our denomination's policy regarding same-sex marriage and the ordination of gay and lesbian clergy. Here is some information and my own thoughts:



The majority of the delegates voted in favor of the **Traditional Plan**. This plan retains the current position of the UMC, which affirms that all people are of sacred worth and made in God's image, but that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, and no self-avowed practicing homosexual may be ordained to ministry in the UMC.

There are, of course, many who **celebrate this decision**, and many others who are **deeply hurt by it**. Among the latter, some individuals and even churches will choose to leave the denomination. Others will stay and live with the tension or continue to work for change.

The gospel we live and proclaim as Western Hills is this: **God's love and kingdom are present and available to everyone through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit**. This will *not* change.

As your pastor, I remain committed to my orders as a Methodist Elder to proclaim God's word, to administer the sacraments, to order the life of the church, and to equip disciples of Jesus Christ for service...to the exclusion of *no one*.

Further, I am committed to serve in whatever way I can to encourage chastity and fulfillment for **those who are single**, and fidelity and fulfillment for **those who are married**, regardless of sexual orientation.

Finally, no matter who you or your loved ones are, there's a place in this **community of love** for you to Belong, Believe, and Be Useful as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Robert +

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Camp isn't just for youth! Check out the Children's and Family camps available this summer at Sacramento. Find our more info and see more camps at www.sacramentocamp.org

SPRINGTIME ADULT RETREAT



APRIL 26-28

Adults of all ages
When the "grown-ups" take over camp, it's sure to be a good time. Come to the mountain to enjoy some time connecting with others and with God.

ADULTS 18+: \$198-271 BASED ON LODGING

YOUNG ELEMENTARY CAMP



JUNE 7-9

Rising 2nd-4th graders
The perfect intro for new adventurers! Come play silly games, make new friends, and learn all about God's love for you.

CAMPERS: \$99 VOLUNTEERS: \$49

SACRAMENTO YOUTH CAMP



JUNE 17-21

Rising 7th graders - grads
At SYC, you'll find where you belong and learn how to follow Jesus for real. Get ready - it's bound to get crazy. #bestweekever

CAMPERS: \$299 VOLUNTEERS: \$149

OLDER ELEMENTARY CAMP



JULY 8-12

Rising 4th-6th graders
Ready to play hard, eat s'mores, go on adventures, and make new friends? All that and new confidence through Jesus - sounds like a great week!

CAMPERS: \$295 VOLUNTEERS: \$150

MUSIC ON THE MOUNTAIN



JULY 7-12

Rising 7th graders - grads
Come to camp and make some noise! You'll leave this week a better friend, musician, and disciple. You've never had this much fun practicing!

CAMPERS: \$445 VOLUNTEERS: \$175

CAMP SUNSHINE



JULY 29-AUG 2

Folks w/ disabilities ages 16+
You are welcome here! At Camp Sunshine, we laugh, smile, sing, make friends, and celebrate our Creator in a space that's safe for everyone.

CAMPERS: \$285 VOLUNTEERS: \$200

WILL HE RETURN THIS YEAR? KEEP A LOOK OUT!

CHILDREN & YOUTH Sunday School

RECORD OUR GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART AND WITH ALL OUR MIND.

BIBLE READER



Family Camp JULY 1-5

Come enjoy the best 4th of July celebration this summer has to offer. Every family is welcome to spend quality time, enjoy the mountains, and seek God - TOGETHER!

\$227 - \$307
BASED ON LODGING

VISIT US ONLINE
OR CALL FOR RATE
INFORMATION

ROAR!

Life is Wild * God is good

VBS 2019 * JUNE 24-28

VBS is coming soon. Volunteer recruitment has already started. See Jenny if you are interested in helping. Registration opens April 1.



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES, JENNY ABBOTT

WHY WERE HIS YOUTH

WHY Fellowship
Sunday Evenings
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Stewart Family Life
Center
6th—12th Grade

youth group

SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 17
NO WHY Fellowship

Sunday, March 24
Purposeful Parenting

March 29-31
CCYM Sr. High Retreat
Sacramento Camp

Sunday, March 31
NO WHY Fellowship

April 12 & 13
"Who's Cookin'?"
Mystery Dinner Theater



CCYM
Sr. High Retreat
Weekend

March 29 to 31
9th - 12th Grades

Cost: \$140

REGISTER ONLINE AT SACRAMENTOCAMP.ORG

VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

TOOLS FOR THE TEXT: A 3-Week study on finding the resources, methods, and aids that can help all of us interpret and understand the Bible.

One of the most common anxieties heard from congregants is that reading the Bible can be intimidating and just plain hard. But the Bible is God's book and all of us can be equipped with a few basic tools that make the text accessible to any reader.

Join Pastor Josh for a 3 week study on some simple ways to make God's word more understandable and readable. Make this your Lenten Discipline, to acquaint yourself with the Bible!

MARCH 31-APRIL 14 * NOON TO 1:30 PM

(CHILDCARE AVAILABLE—RSVP TO PASTOR JOSH)

Take the next step

Membership Lunch & Info Session – March 24

If you've been attending the Ridge for a while, and you're ready to commit, we invite you to join us for a lunch and informational time at Pastor Josh's house. 1 – 3 PM. We'll provide info on the Ridge's history, what it means to be

a United Methodist, opportunities for discipleship and volunteering, and more.

This isn't just a membership class, it's an opportunity to meet new people and be challenged to grow in our faith. Take the next step!



Welcome to our newest members: Mike, Jan, & David Nichols. We're so happy to have you as part of The Ridge bunch!

IT'S NOT CHURCH, IT'S HOME



AND THE BIG IDEA IS...

See You At 6 is coming soon!

Our big idea is selected and we're getting ready to launch monthly "See You at 6" gatherings for fellowship, community, and growth.

More details coming soon!

TOWN HALL MEETING

A DISCUSSION ON THE 'WAY FORWARD'

MARCH 10
4:00PM
SANCTUARY

CHILDCARE PROVIDED



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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