

JUNE/JULY 2019

# Connections

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

## *Pastor John shares a little about his mission work in Africa...*

The Congo Projects For Relief (CPR) organization is pursuing a Clean Water Project for the Village of Musumba in the Kapanga District of the Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are working in conjunction with the Musumba Water Committee, the Mwant-Yav Tribal Chief, the Government of Katanga Province, the Catholic Church, and the United Methodist Church, all of whom are significant stakeholders in providing clean water to the Village. Our goal is to create a village water utility that will be self-sustaining.

The Village of Musumba currently has a resident population of approximately 45,000 inhabitants. There is insufficient clean water for the local population which continues to grow and is projected to approach 60,000 inhabitants within a few years. Clean water is critical to the health and welfare of the people in Musumba.

Our team has made 8 trips to Musumba. We have drilled a well 150 feet deep, installed a high volume electric well pump and erected a 500,000 liter storage tank. We are working with the villagers to improve distribution and organize a water committee. Our next trip is scheduled for September 2019.



MISSION  
SUNDAY

June 23



## Noisy Offering

**JUNE 23rd**

Gather your change and bring it on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for Noisy Offering.

**YOUR CHANGE  
WILL HELP WITH  
CONGO MISSION**



## NEED PRAYER?

If you have a prayer request or would like to be a part of our Prayer Chain, email [ZDMFHM@aol.com](mailto: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

Dottie Dailey, health concerns  
Anastasia Marcum, health concerns  
Roberta & Frank Harrison  
The Pelfrey Family  
Charlotte Nobles, health concerns  
Bill Bostick  
Gylene Bostick

#### THE WORLD

\*Leaders of our nation  
Traveling safety for immigrant families being reunited  
The people of Nicaragua  
People in the city of Juarez

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Jacob Wood  
Alfred Aceituno, Jr., health concerns  
Jessica Bachicha, health concerns  
Sarah Tuttle, health concerns  
Jeanette Rogers, health concerns  
Daniel Ruelas, health concerns  
Mary Ellen, health concerns  
Uma John, health concerns

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS with cancer

\*Charles Cancellare  
Amy  
Bettie Tritton  
Frank Taylor  
Matthew  
Ron Banas  
Juanis Morales  
Kevin Lawson  
Marlene Miller  
Bob Snead  
Tom Lothamer  
Sharon King  
Jeff Jacobsen  
Courtney  
Eva Mowad  
Babette Lucas  
Roy Van Nostrand  
Catherine Laje  
Sylvia Villagrana  
Robert Askelson  
Jill Askelson  
Rick

### WITH OUR PRESENCE

#### May 5, 2019

Worship ..... 172  
Sunday School..... 74  
The Ridge.....  
Sidewalk SS.....n/a

#### May 12, 2019

Worship ..... 259  
Sunday School..... 92  
The Ridge..... 64  
Sidewalk SS.....n/a

#### May 19, 2019

Worship ..... 185  
Sunday School..... 61  
The Ridge..... 92  
Sidewalk SS.....n/a

#### April 28, 2019

Worship ..... 170  
Sunday School..... 55  
The Ridge..... 77  
Sidewalk SS.....n/a

### WITH OUR GIFTS

Income MTD March & April 2019: \$141,449.31  
Expenses MTD March & April 2019: \$133,620.98

Income YTD 2019: \$246,060.29  
Expenses YTD 2019: \$266,158.60

Income Budget YTD 2019 \$213,494.82  
Expense Budget YTD 2019 \$282,955.75

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

**WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG**



# the **WESLEY** challenge

21 DAYS TO A MORE AUTHENTIC FAITH

## CHURCH WIDE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY — THIS JULY

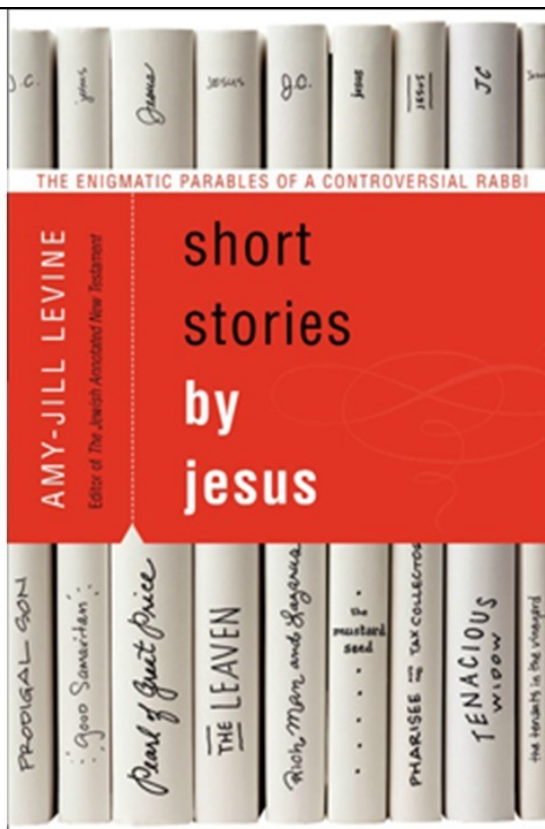
Renew your passion and discover deeper commitment to God in just 21 days. *The Wesley Challenge* introduces our denomination's founder in a practical and accessible way, and engages small groups and churches to work through twenty-one questions studied over three weeks to help renew passion and discover a deeper commitment to God—one that is more authentic, vulnerable, and soul-shaping. Daily posts and messages are designed with an emphasis on graphics and short content bits to engage your physical, emotional, and spiritual lives throughout the 21-day study.

## Summer Study

*with Pastor Amy*

6 WEEK STUDY  
STARTS JULY 11th  
THURSDAY MORNINGS  
10AM – 11:30AM  
LIBRARY

**Student guide  
available for \$10.  
Call office to sign up.**



### TEXT ALERTS—COMING SOON

In effort to expand our communication at WHUMC, we will be adding text message alerts for important events/news. *Look for more information in your June 16 bulletin.*

### E-NEWS—ARE YOU SIGNED UP?

Sign up to receive our weekly "Weekend Update" as well as occasional emails with event reminders, important news, etc. Email your name to [mindy@westernhillsep.org](mailto:mindy@westernhillsep.org) to sign up.



## SENIOR PASTOR APPOINTED

Last month, Western Hills UMC SPRC met with the El Paso District Superintendent, Eddie Rivera, and accepted a new appointment for our Senior Pastor. We are very excited to announce that Pastor Kim Kinsey has been appointed as Senior Pastor of Western Hills United Methodist Church.

Kim comes to us with 28 years of experience in the ministry. She has spent the last 10 years at Christ United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. Pastor Kinsey and her 3 cats will be moving to El Paso the last week of June. Her first Sunday will be June 30. We will share more info about welcoming her to our congregations later this month.



Kelly Memorial  
Food Pantry

Summer  
Food  
for  
Kids

**FRUIT CUPS**  
**CANNED PASTA**  
(RAVIOLI/SPAGHETTIOS)  
**MAC-N-CHEESE**  
**CEREAL**

**ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE**

*Thursday, July 4*

THE ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE WILL  
ONCE AGAIN BEGIN IN THE WHUMC PARKING LOT.  
WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO WORK THE  
HOSPITALITY TEAM THE MORNING OF THE PARADE.  
INTERESTED? SEE PASTOR AMY

*Hospitality Team*

VOLUNTEERS WILL MEET AT 7AM — PARK AT JR. LEAGUE

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

Prayer requests can be made  
by filling out a prayer request  
slip or can be emailed to  
Zoe Dean Middleton at  
[ZDMFHM@aol.com](mailto:ZDMFHM@aol.com).

ADD ME TO THE  
EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to be added  
to our email prayer chain,  
please contact Zoe Dean  
Middleton @ 915.581.3051  
or email her at  
[ZDMFHM@aol.com](mailto:ZDMFHM@aol.com)

PRAYER  
LIST

FAITH, FICTION, & FELLOWSHIP

*Page Turners*

**JULY 11  
7:00PM  
LIBRARY**

THE LAST SIN EATER

EVEN IF YOU DON'T FINISH THE BOOK, JOIN US FOR LIVELY DISCUSSION  
& BRING A FRIEND. REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

**Congratulations to our 2019 High School Grads!**



**FOLLOW US ON  
SOCIAL MEDIA**



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



WESTERNHILLSMETHODIST



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**VBS WORKDAY**  
JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup> \* 9:30AM \* NARTHEX

## SAFE SANCTUARY TRAININGS *REQUIRED FOR ALL VBS VOLUNTEERS*



ALL VBS VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKS TO ATTEND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TRAINING SESSIONS:

**JUNE 6 AT 6:30PM**  
**SFLC MEETING ROOM**

**JUNE 9 AT 4:00PM**  
**SFLC MEETING ROOM**

Life is Wild \* God is good

## VBS JUNE 24-28

REGISTER AT [WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG](http://WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG) THRU JUNE 14\*

\*SPACE IS LIMITED TO FIRST 130 CHILDREN

**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**

Looking for a new opportunity to serve? We are looking for

Children's Sunday School teachers for the fall. Contact Jenny for more information.

## CHILDREN'S SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

PREK — 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
ROOM C9



**CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH**  
SUNDAY MORNINGS  
FOLLOWING CHILDREN'S TIME  
AT THE 11AM SERVICE  
PREK—1ST GRADE  
ROOM C8

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES, JENNY ABBOTT**



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



**Thursday, June 6**  
**Safe Sanctuary Training**  
**6:30pm**  
**SFLC**

**Sunday, June 9**  
**Safe Sanctuary Training**  
**4:00pm**  
**SFLC**

**Mystery Trip Meeting**  
**For Parents & Youth**  
**5:00pm**  
**SFLC**

**Saturday, June 15**  
**Move VBS Props**  
**10am—Noon**  
**Lunch Included**

**June 17—21**  
**Mystery Trip**

**June 24—28**  
**VBS**



**Thank you to our amazing youth for leading Worship on Mother's Day.**



**Class of 2019**

# VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

## One Last Note from Pastor Josh

We have arrived at the moment when my path and the path of The Ridge and Western Hills UMC diverge. On June 16, I'll celebrate my last Sunday as The Ridge's pastor. And on June 26, I'll be headed up to Albuquerque for new adventures at Mesa View United Methodist Church. It's hard to believe that three years have come and gone so fast! I want to leave you with a few thoughts.

First, thank you, all of you. We have conquered several big challenges in a short amount of time. To all of you in both congregations who have volunteered, prayed, worked, and offered friendship, please know that I'll forever be grateful for the ways you've shaped my life and shown me compelling evidence of God's grace.

Second, a new chapter in the Ridge's story is about to unfold. This is exciting! A new pastor will soon be appointed. She or he will have gifts, insights, and talents that will call the Ridge to new ministries and opportunities. I am asking you to support that person with the same zeal which you have shown me. If you and your new pastor can work together toward common mission, I am sure the Ridge's future is bright.

Third, keep the faith. It is hard to be the church these days! That said, I can't think of a better time to be in ministry. Churches change the world every day for people. Remember who you are, keep taking risks for the sake of grace, reach out to your neighbor, love God with all of yourself.

Fourth, thank, all of you. That one deserves to be repeated! If you are ever in Albuquerque, look me up and drop by to say hi! You probably know that we all live in a small Methodist world. Our paths will cross again. When that happens, I can't wait to enjoy the reunion.

Blessings to you all!

Pastor Josh Kouri

How lucky I am  
to have something  
that makes saying  
goodbye so hard.

-Winnie the Pooh



Thanks to all who attended the Ridge's shared Ramadan Dinner with Raindrop Turkish House. We shared delicious food, dialogue, and mutual learning.

## 6 Great Ways to Welcome a New Pastor

(From Lewis Center for Church Leadership)

1. Open your hearts and decide that you are going to love your new pastor.
2. Begin praying daily for the new pastor and family, even as you continue to pray for your departing pastor and family.
3. Invite church members individually to send cards of welcome and encouragement to the incoming pastor.
4. Know that welcoming your new pastor in genuine and effective ways lays the ground work for a healthy and vital relationship and the development of stable, long-term ministries together.
5. Plan for the transition. Occasionally important welcoming gestures are missed with everyone thinking someone else is handling these details.
6. Appoint a specific liaison person to whom the pastor can go for help and information during the transition.

Congrats to The Ridge's class of 2019 – George Chestnut, who will attend New Mexico State University and study

Marketing and Jacobo Wedemeyer who will attend Western Colorado University and study Kinesiology. We are so proud of both of you!



# IT'S NOT CHURCH, IT'S HOME

**THIS IS EXCITING NEWS – our vision for the Sobremesa food truck ministry is being realized.**

Bravo to every person who cooked, shopped, cleaned, served, washed dishes, scrubbed and took out the trash!

**We've done four major events in less than 8 weeks...WOWZA!**

- We served breakfast at the Annual UMW District Meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> breakfast burritos and fresh fruit, juice and coffee – for 75 ladies and men.
- Next was the BIG undertaking – Youth Mystery Dinner Theatre where we provided a gourmet meal for about 200 folks on April 12 and 13
- Then the May 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Breakfast (for 15-20) this past Sunday – it looked exquisite.
- And we participated in a multi-agency collaboration on Wed., May 22 that was attempting to assess and identify the unknown homeless on the streets by providing both breakfast and lunch/dinner meals for 150 people.

We did this while still serving 125-150 people at the Opportunity Center, as we usually do, with two evening meals in April and two meals in May. All in addition to the sandwiches we provide weekly. We also trained a whole new cadre of certified food handlers – on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, including some youth!

You all have done incredible work! We received \$2200 in profits from the dinner theatre (\$2500 went to the Youth Mission Trip) and will receive a donation of \$200 for the Senior Breakfast meal. We can feed a lot of hungry people with the money we made from these two events. This vision is now reality. Well done!!!



Thank you for your dedicated humble service and ingenuity – it's happening because we are living out our mission statement "BELONG, BELIEVE, BE USEFUL, BE LOVE". You are proclaiming the power of Christ by sharing his love with others. THANK YOU for your faithfulness.

**BE LOVE.**  
BELONG. BELIEVE. BE USEFUL.

**HAPPY**  
  
**Father's DAY**

## WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

### Ministers

All Members

**Rev. John Schwarting**  
Interim 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**  
Business/Facilities Manager

**Suzy Snow**  
Administrative Assistant

**Mindy Archey**  
Publications/Communications

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