

APRIL 2020

Connections

NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC

EL PASO, TEXAS

There is a Chinese curse that frequently runs through my mind: May you live in interesting times! There have been so many challenges to the local church and ministry. The world is rapidly changing and younger generations have new perspectives have unique ways (Although, honestly that sentence has described the state of the world for about 50 years plus.) For the past ten years, it's been clear to me that our denomination was coming to a crucial moment and the impasses at the last three General Conference only increased my anxiety and uncertainty. And now there is a national pandemic with a stay at home order. It puts all of the questions of faith and how to be the church into a whole new perspective. Indeed, for me and I suspect for many of us life has taken on new perspectives and challenges in the last three weeks. When I'm worried or uncertain about the multitude of changes in the world, that word often floats through my mind: interesting. It makes me smile, as I ponder whatever is next.

So where to look, what to say and do in these interesting times. I'll offer some suggestions and I'll continue to offer insights and encouragement in the weeks ahead.

Change is a constant in our world. It can be mind boggling and heart tiring. As I said before, change is always present. Right now our routines have been disrupted. Realities of health, job loss, and basic needs produce sleeplessness, anger, and anxiety. All of those reactions are ways of coping with the uncertainty. For me, I acknowledge what I'm feeling. I take deep breaths. In that moment, I try to find the wisdom to act. I don't try to ignore the uncertainty or

stress. Nor do I try to wish it away or pretend like it doesn't exist. Instead, I invite God into the circumstance. I trust that the Holy Spirit intercedes in groans beyond my ability to create words. (Romans 8:26-27). I also drawn on well-worn prayers like the Lord's prayer to find solace and perspective.

What I also know is that our God meets us in those changes. Our faith remains as powerful in this moment as in any other. When I began serving Western Hills UMC, Psalm 121 repeated through my prayers over and over. Those

familiar words call us to look to the mountains. We are surrounded by the beauty of the mountains in El Paso. But the question of where our help comes from is not the mountains. It is the Lord, who created heaven and earth. In turbulent times, it may seem like God isn't listening or has thrown up God's hands and walked away. God hasn't and God won't. Trust God with all of your fears and uncertainties in this interesting time. Seek God's presence. Seek and live the wisdom given to us in our faith. Be kind. Be love.

Christ's Peace,
Pastor Kim





WESTERN HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Joy Wilson, death of pet
Linda Philips, health concerns
Jean Smith, health concerns
Ann Rothman, health concerns

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Gary Simpson, health concerns
James Story, health concerns
Ortega family
Tom Buchanan, on hospice care
Jeff Beason, health concerns
Michelle, health concerns
Becca, new job in NYC
Linda Gorman, health concerns
Jeannie Winbauer, death of grandson, Gary

OUR COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Opportunity Center
Our nation's Armed Forces and their families
Traveling safety for immigrant families being reunited
People in the city of Juarez

MEMBERS, FAMILY & FRIENDS WITH CANCER

Linda Gorman
Jan Johnson
Noemi Tovar
Bruce Raneich
Gavin Moon
Fred Fraser
Tom Lothamer
Kevin Lawson
Lee Cahania
Jerri Taylor
Carla Mosley
Claudette Hillis
Charles Cancellare
Jeff Jacobsen
Babette Lucas
Roy Van Nostrand
Catherine Laje
Sylvia Villagrana
Robert Askelson
Jill Askelson



THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who helped with the yard clean up at the Indian Bluff Parsonage: Doug Wilson, William Raley, David Raley, Bill Hooten, Lyle Fraka, Jackie Gaines, Steve Putnicki, Kim Kinsey, Sal Perales, Dawn Wheeler, Kathy Johnson, Ken Johnson, & Beverly Stevens.



Holy Week at Western Hills

Palm Sunday Worship—April 5

WORSHIP WITH US AT 11 AM

Join us on Zoom & Facebook Live (watch your email/Facebook for Zoom info)
Have your palm branches ready for worship. Print & color one (see last page), craft one, print a picture of one—anything works. Check our Facebook page for a post with ideas.

Drive By Prayers

During Holy Week, you are encouraged to drive by prayers at the church, local schools, hospitals, etc. Look for an email on Monday with suggested prayers and more information. Make sure to stay in your vehicles while you are doing this.

Maundy Thursday—April 9

LOVE FEAST at 6PM

Join us on Zoom (watch your email/Facebook for Zoom info)
When we “break bread” together as a church in our worship, we remember that Jesus invited folks to his table as part of his ministry, not just at the Last Supper. So we wanted to create a way for all of us to break bread together with whatever we have at our homes.

Good Friday—April 10

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WORSHIP at 6PM

Join us on Zoom (watch your email/Facebook for Zoom info)

PRAYER VIGIL

Watch your email and check Facebook for more information.

Holy Saturday—April 11

FASTING AND PRAYER

As Lent comes to a close and we near the celebration of the resurrection of Christ, you are invited to fast from something (food, media, etc.) and spend time in prayer.

Easter Sunday—April 12

CELEBRATING THE RISEN LORD WITH MUSIC—8:30AM

Kick off your Easter morning by hopping on our Facebook page for a live concert featuring music from Judi Wilkinson and Aina Olonade.

WORSHIP WITH US AT 11 AM

Join us on Zoom & Facebook Live (watch your email/Facebook for Zoom info)

SPREAD THE WORD—CHRIST IS RISEN

Share the good news that CHRIST IS RISEN! Take and post an early morning picture, call friends, neighbors, other church members, chalk your driveway, take a walk and bless the houses as you pass with the phrase “Christ is Risen”.



**WEDNESDAY
MORNINGS
AT 10AM
ON ZOOM**

PRAYER MEETING

**MEETING ID:
612 825 259
PASSWORD:
028766**



weekly FINANCE INFO

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE
THE WEEKLY FINANCE INFO EMAILS,
PLEASE EMAIL
MINDY@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG
TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST.

NOW HIRING

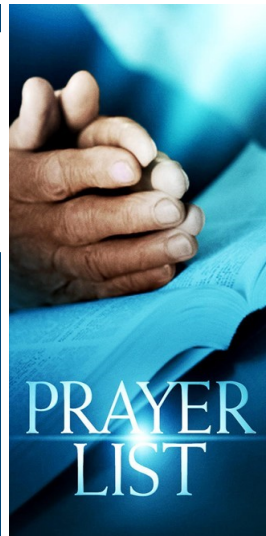
Director of Youth Ministries

WE ARE CURRENTLY ACCEPTING RESUMES/INQUIRES FOR
THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES. THIS
3/4 TIME POSITION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING AND
LEADING YOUTH PROGRAMS. INQUIRIES AND/OR RESUMES
CAN BE SENT TO YOUTHMINISTRY@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG



Sign up for e-news!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE WHUMC EMAIL
UPDATES, NEWSLETTERS, AND MORE
EMAIL MINDY@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG
TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST.



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.

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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK: WESTERN HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—EL PASO

INSTAGRAM: WESTERNHILLSMETHODIST

SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS TEXT **WHUMC** TO **940-90** OPT IN

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Egg Hunt

Let's have an Easter Egg Hunt! On a piece of paper, color an egg and then tape the egg to your window. Invite all your friends and neighbors to participate. As people get out and walk the neighborhood, they can "hunt" Easter eggs. *Check last couple pages of the newsletter of a printable egg to color.*



**EMPOWERING
COURAGEOUS KIDS**
Lesson
Downloads



Sunday School At Home

Take a few minutes each week & go to www.westernhillsep.org/children/ to access free downloadable interactive video lessons that also includes a pdf of the lesson if the parents want to teach it themselves.

The lessons are available weekly from now through Pentecost (May 31).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 22-26

REGISTRATION BEGINS

APRIL 15

WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES, JENNY ABBOTT

Youth group

SCHEDULE

WHY Fellowship

Until further notice we will meet via Zoom video-conferencing every Sunday at 2PM.

Be sure to send Mitzi your email address so you can receive the invitations.
Mitzi@westernhillsep.org

WHY Shenanigans



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2020

I am so incredibly proud of this year's Confirmation class. We have been meeting since September, and they have grown in their faith while teaching me a thing or two. Due to our present circumstances with the "Shelter at Home" directive, we will not be holding our Confirmation Ceremony on Easter Sunday, April 12, but instead will wait until we are once again able to worship together with our congregation. Everyone can look forward to that time when our young people shine, and we are able to lay hands on them.

Mitzi UNDERWOOD

Director of Youth Ministries

THIS YEAR'S CLASS MEMBERS:

Radek Bach
Heath Bayliss
Madeline Hebert
William Hebert
Jeremiah Mason
Merle Probasco
Josephine Query
Michael Raley
Karly Spencer
Sadie Swartz

VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

The Ridge Church EP

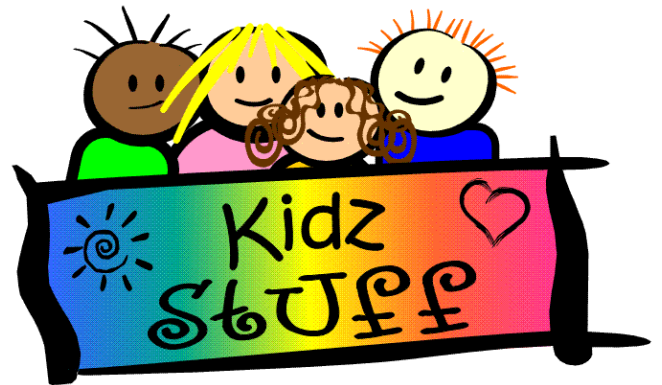
YouTube

Follow us on Youtube

Join us for online worship
Sunday mornings at 10am.

Find daily devotionals on the
workbook, Devotional Life in the
Wesleyan Tradition, on our
YouTube channel and
Facebook page.

Check our Facebook page
for children's lessons and
crafts posted by our
children's ministry director,
Aranda Bermudez.



HOW CAN
WE PRAY
FOR YOU?

EMAIL PRAYER
REQUESTS TO
PRAYER@THERIDGEEP.COM



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

STUDY WILL
NOW TAKE
PLACE
USING
ZOOM



WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS
@ 6:30PM



In Lieu of Lilies

Monies from this year's *In Lieu of Lilies* will support our 2020 Change the World projects.

\$10

You still have time to support our 2020 Change the World projects by donating to In Lieu of Lilies. Email mindy@westernhillsep.org your order info by 4/6. Checks can be mailed to the church office or you may make your contribution online at www.westernhillsep.org and click the donate tab.

Name _____ Phone _____

Qty: _____

_____ In memory of _____

_____ In memory of _____

_____ In memory of _____

_____ In honor of _____

_____ In honor of _____

_____ In honor of _____

_____ Total at \$10.00 each _____ amount paid

Proceeds will benefit Change The World 2020

Psalms for Our Souls

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDY THIS APRIL

TWO GROUPS/NIGHTS TO CHOOSE FROM

**MONDAYS APRIL 6, 13, 20, 27
& WEDNESDAYS APRIL 8, 15, 22, 29
7PM - 8PM ON ZOOM**

**EMAIL PASTOR AMY TO REGISTER.
AMY@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG**

*The Source of
Compassion,
Strength,
Courage and
Hope*



WESTERN HILLS UMC STAFF

Ministers

All Members

Rev. Kim Kinsey

Senior Pastor

Rev. Amy Mercer

Mission & Discipleship

Pastor Sal Perales

The Ridge

Mitzi Underwood

Director of Youth
Ministries

Jenny Abbott

Director of Children's
Ministries

Mindy Archey

Publications/
Communications

Nancy Bickley

Minister of Music

David Pena

Director of Praise
& Worship

Jody Garcia

Bookkeeper

Patricia Aguirre

WH Academy



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