

BE THE  
*light*  
-MATTHEW 5:14

MAY 2020

# Connections

NEWSLETTER OF WESTERN HILLS UMC

EL PASO, TEXAS

SUNDAY MAY 10TH

**Drive-In  
WORSHIP**

**9:00AM**

TUNE IN FOR WORSHIP FROM INSIDE  
YOUR CAR IN OUR PARKING LOT



**LIVE STREAM WORSHIP**

**11:00AM**

WORSHIP FROM  
HOME ON  
ZOOM OR  
FACEBOOK LIVE



- Drive in on the North entrance
- Park every other space
- Please remain in your vehicle
- Tune into 107.1 FM on your radio
- We won't have a drink station set up, so bring your water, coffee, tea, etc.
- We will not have screens, plan to print or save PDF of the worship order/song lyrics if you want them
- Check your email and Facebook for more details

**LIVE STREAM AT 11AM**

Join on Zoom OR watch the Zoom  
service live here on our Facebook page.  
<https://www.facebook.com/WHUMCEIPaso/>

**Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://zoom.us/j/157058149?](https://zoom.us/j/157058149?pwd=Z0Q1ZjJKNtBDVkrjVcvQ2JnSnFrUT09)  
[pwd=Z0Q1ZjJKNtBDVkrjVcvQ2JnSnFrUT09](https://zoom.us/j/157058149?pwd=Z0Q1ZjJKNtBDVkrjVcvQ2JnSnFrUT09)

**Meeting ID: 157 058 149**

**Password: 010960**





## 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

#### SYMPATHY

\*Family and friends of Bill Hooten, Sr. (father of Bill Hooten)  
Family, friends, students and colleagues of Nic Lanutti  
Family and friends of Eddy Underwood  
Family and friends of Onita Ahlen

#### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Dale & Jean Smith, transitions  
Larry & Judi Ellzey, passing of beloved dog

#### FAMILY & FRIENDS

\*Charlotte Nobles, health concerns  
\*Jean Smith  
Linda Gorman, hospice care  
Robert LaPere, health concerns  
Frank, health concerns  
Melody, health concerns  
Duane Coleman  
LaWanna Lincoln, health concerns  
Jenna Rogers, health concerns  
Ortega family  
Tim Blodgett (Laurimore)

#### OUR COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Front line medical workers  
Country, state, city leaders throughout the U.S.  
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

Jack Phillips  
Linda Phillips  
George  
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

### WITH OUR GIFTS

Income MTD March 2020	\$47,776.02
Expense MTD March 2020	\$81,906.42
Income Budget YTD 2020	\$274,443.82
Expense Budget YTD 2020	\$203,302.69

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



## weekly FINANCE INFO

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE  
THE WEEKLY FINANCE INFO EMAILS,  
PLEASE EMAIL  
[MINDY@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG](mailto:MINDY@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG)  
TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST.



# Still We Are The CHURCH

Opportunity Center for the vulnerable population seeking shelter there.

Since that time, I've seen our congregation step forward to serve and participate in different meaningful ways. Sunday School leaders and small group leaders reached out to their members thru weekly emails, phone calls, and ZOOM meetings. Some folks started sewing fabric masks and surgical caps. Members checked on members (and their pastors.) Members checked on neighbors to make sure they had masks, to share food. Mitzi found new ways to be with the youth, Jenny mailed notes and activity pages to our littlest sheep and their families. Pastor Kim started a weekly Prayer Gathering on Wednesdays. Worship became a virtual experience. In April we had "Psalms for our Souls" - a virtual Bible study with 36 people in three groups - and individuals from Virginia and Maryland joined in.

What do the rest of May and June look like? I'm not sure, but I do know **WE ARE STILL THE CHURCH.**

Thank you church!

Pastor Amy

The Friendship Quilters put quilting aside and became the **Friendship Mask Makers** in April. Hundreds of grace masks have been sewn and delivered or sent wherever they were needed. Some have gone as far away as Seattle, Chicago, Lexington, Austin, Houston, Dallas, and Lubbock. Many have been delivered to nursing care facilities and individuals in El Paso.

Thank you to all who have made donations for the purchase of supplies and postage. Your generosity means that others are protected and protecting as they go about their essential jobs and errands.



So much has changed in recent weeks. In March we planned to cook and deliver quarts of soup and dessert weekly to those folks in congregation (Soup's On) and at Westway who were sheltering in place. Following all CDC and health guidelines, we had a cook team of less than 10 people, numerous delivery teams and served more than 150 people (86 quarts!) on March 19th and 20th. With the "STAY HOME, STAY SAFE" order on March 21st - plans changed quickly. All of the food items we had purchased for the next two weeks of Soup's On were delivered to the



## UPDATE

The staff and patrons at the Opportunity Center for the Homeless have had their challenges complying with the CDC guidelines of social distancing. As such, two additional facilities located on Delta Drive have opened their doors to accommodate this vulnerable population. Meals at these two locations are being provided by the Rescue Mission, Salvation Army and other organizations. And while we are not allowed to serve meals at the Myrtle location, we have been able to maintain our commitment of providing dinners twice a month and sandwiches every Friday. This is made possible by our pool of faithful volunteers who give so willingly and generously. We hope to share smiles and words of hope face to face with these gentlemen again someday. **If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, please contact Jackie Gaines at 915-217-9282.**



### NEW Thursday Night Life Group

Join us as we go on a journey together to connect and share as we discover spiritual disciplines. Meeting via Zoom beginning Thursday, May 14 at 7PM. Contact Steve Putnicki for more info: [stevenputt@gmail.com](mailto:stevenputt@gmail.com). The vision for this class really isn't so much a 'class' as an opportunity for a group to come together to safely share and connect. We can vent, complain, laugh and perhaps cry. In other words **"let's do life together."**

The  
Church Is  
*not* The  
Building



*Screwtape's Practical Advice for the Pandemic*



zoom

**MONDAY NIGHTS WITH PASTOR KIM**  
**MAY 11 – JUNE 29 • 7PM**  
 EMAIL [KIM@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG](mailto:kim@westernhillsep.org) TO SIGN UP

**SPONSOR A FLAG**

YOUR GIFT OF **\$30** SPONSORS A FLAG TO BE FLOWN AT WHUMC ON MEMORIAL DAY, FLAG DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY, LABOR DAY, AND VETERANS DAY.

Make sure to mark "FLAG" in the memo of your check or online contribution. If you'd like the flag to be flown in honor or memory of someone, please make a note of that information.

**VOLUNTEER**



WE ARE IN NEED OF QUITE A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH OUR DRIVE IN WORSHIP SERVICES AND SERVICES AS WE MOVE BACK TO IN PERSON WORSHIP. IN ORDER TO DO OUR BEST TO FOLLOW RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES, WE WILL NEED TO MAKE SOME CHANGES TO THE WAY WE ARE DOING WORSHIP FOR A WHILE AND WE NEED YOUR HELP. CONTACT PASTOR KIM AT [KIM@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG](mailto:kim@westernhillsep.org) IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP OR TO LEARN MORE.

10AM  
ON ZOOM

LET US  
*pray*

**WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER GATHERING**  
 CHECK THE WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK FOR ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

Contributions can be mailed to the church office.

**TITHES & OFFERING**

Give online by clicking on the DONATE tab on the home page.

**FAITH, FICTION, & FELLOWSHIP**

*Page Turners*

**Educated**  
A MEMOIR  
TARA WESTOVER

MAY 14  
7:00PM  
ZOOM

Contact Bob LaGrone for Zoom Meeting Info  
 CALL 584-5065 OR  
 EMAIL [ralagron@icloud.net](mailto:ralagron@icloud.net)

EVEN IF YOU DON'T FINISH THE BOOK, JOIN US FOR LIVELY DISCUSSION.

**1**



**WESTERN HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*Sign up for e-news!*

IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE WHUMC EMAIL UPDATES, NEWSLETTERS, AND MORE EMAIL [MINDY@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG](mailto:MINDY@WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG) TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST.

**EMPOWERING COURAGEOUS KIDS**  
Lesson Downloads

**Sunday School At Home**

[www.westernhillsep.org/children/](http://www.westernhillsep.org/children/)

## 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

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES, JENNY ABBOTT

**Make sure to check your mailbox, social media, and our website often. Jenny has been providing all kind of things to do until we can gather in person again.**

**VBS UPDATE**—We have made the hard decision to cancel VBS for this year. We are working to find alternative activities to do — so stay tuned!

**PSALM 23**—Pastor Kim is hoping that everyone will memorize Psalm 23 by the end of her sermon series on May 24. She put together a PowerPoint slide show to help us learn. Find it on the church website under the Children's Ministry area.

**Hey Kids!** Flat Jesus is back! Print a copy of Flat Jesus, color and cut out. Let Flat Jesus enjoy all the activities your are doing! Take pictures of Flat Jesus as he joins you in finishing school work, or when you are outside playing, as you eat dinner or when you wake up in the morning! Take Flat Jesus with you everywhere you go as a reminder that Jesus is always with you. Share your pictures on the church's Facebook page or email them to Jenny at [jenny@westernhillsep.org](mailto:jenny@westernhillsep.org).

*A printable copy and instructions can be found on the last page of this newsletter.*





WE ARE  
SO  
PROUD  
OF YOU



cheer \* clap \* shout \* honk  
CELEBRATE OUR HIGH  
SCHOOL GRADUATES  
May 17 at 9am Drive-In Worship

BONNIE ABBOTT  
and  
CIARA MCGUIRE

There will be bins out for gifts and cards  
to be dropped in during the celebration.



Bonnie Abbott and Ciara McGuire are both long-standing WHY members, and this year's amazing grads! Senior Recognition will be different this year, but we still plan to make it special. If you can't get to the store to buy a card, hand-made cards are always wonderful too.

youth  
group  
SCHEDULE

### WHY Fellowship

Until further notice we will meet via Zoom.

### WHY GAME NIGHTS

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89265591842>

### WHY FELLOWSHIP

Sundays at 2:00 p.m.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83439733368>

## WHY POST-COVID BUCKET LIST!

YOUTH—Let's put together a bucket list of the experiences we want to have together when we are past this craziness. Send your Bucket List items to Mitzi and an official list will be compiled. Think of ideas for smaller groups and places where social distancing can easily be practiced.





# VIEWS FROM THE RIDGE

My Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As state and local governments begin to ease restrictions on the shelter in place orders that have blanketed most of the nation, churches are facing a new and very different normal as they consider how to expand their ministry offerings in what appears to be a long season of social distancing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published a new "Interim Guidance for Communities of Faith" that outlines precautions churches may need to take as coronavirus restrictions are eased. These guidances include continued use of virtual options for worship and meetings, gathering size limitations, continued use of face coverings, heightened sanitation requirements, discouraging the use of offering plates, pew pads, shared books like hymnals, and even choirs. The Ridge will be closely evaluating and monitoring the information provided by the CDC and our local city and State authorities and will make a determination later in the month of May as to when and in what capacity we will start to worship in our church space. As soon as the Leadership Team and I make those decisions, we will inform you. *This will be sometime the week after Memorial Day.*

Blessings,  
Pastor Sal



## COMING UP:

Men's and Women's Breakfasts continue via Zoom on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Women's at 8AM & Men's at 9:30AM.

Wednesday Night Bible Study on the book of Romans each Wednesday at 6:30PM on Zoom.

Special graduation blessing for our high school or college seniors on May 17<sup>th</sup>.



Sermon Series NOT AFRAID, Because He Lives continues this month:

May 10<sup>th</sup> – A Place For You

May 17<sup>th</sup> – We Are His Offspring

May 24<sup>th</sup> – ...What My Father Promised...

May 31<sup>st</sup> – Filled With The Holy Spirit



# A PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

*(abbreviated version of a longer prayer by Amy Young)*

To those who gave birth this year and to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising — we celebrate & anticipate with you.

To those who have lost a child and to those walking the hard path of infertility — we mourn & walk with you.

To those who are in the trenches with both little and older ones every day — we see and appreciate you.

To those who have lost their mothers or are distant from them — we grieve with you.

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children — we celebrate with you.

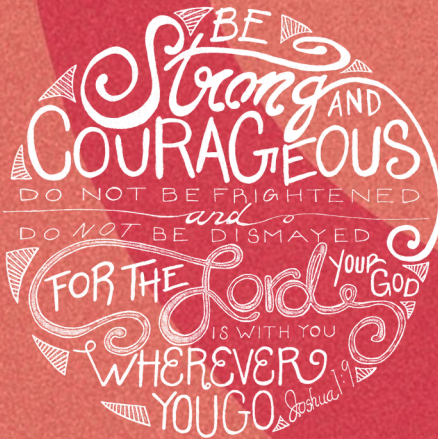
To those who have heart ache and distance with your children — we sit with you.

To those who lived through the overall testing of motherhood — we are better for having you in our midst.

To those who have placed children for adoption — we remember how you hold that child in your heart.

To the many in this room that have been like mothers and mentors in the lives of others — we thank you.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms — we need you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We celebrate you.



## 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

524 Thunderbird Dr.  
El Paso, TX 79912

Office: (915) 584-2133

Fax: (915) 833-2965

WH Academy: (915) 584-6642

[WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG](http://WWW.WESTERNHILLSEP.ORG)







## ADVENTURES of FLAT JESUS

Let Flat Jesus accompany you in all your activities!

Flat Jesus can be a reminder of Jesus' real presence in every place we find ourselves and as a fun reminder to help others encounter God.



1. Decorate your Flat Jesus.
2. Let Flat Jesus join you in **all your activities** and take lots of pictures and share them.
3. Talk with family and friends about what you and Flat Jesus experienced.
4. Email photos to Jenny Abbott at [jenny@westernhillsep.org](mailto:jenny@westernhillsep.org). Submitted photos act as consent for Western Hills UMC to use photos in worship services, on the church website, Facebook page and newsletter.

**Let's show that Jesus is always with us.**

**Make one for you and for a friend.**

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