

Sunday Worship

8:50 AM Contemporary
Worship with Communion

11:15 AM Traditional Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School

Mission

Making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

God's vision for Northwest Hills UMC is that we be the active presence of the Kingdom of God in our community. We will live out that vision by offering the life-changing love of Jesus Christ through energetic outreach, vibrant worship, compassionate service, and intentional faith

Vision

PASTOR'S CORNER

As I write this column, our nation is marking the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 – an order that authorized the rounding up and incarceration of Japanese Americans. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, fear and prejudice became so pervasive, that few voices of opposition were raised when the order was given to imprison first-generation Japanese immigrants who were classified as "aliens ineligible for citizenship" also imprisoned their second-generation American-born children. Eventually 110,000 Japanese-Americans were forced from their homes with only the few possessions they could carry, and then taken to detention facilities.

Can you imagine the fear and despair those persons must have experienced? All these years later, persons like actor George Takei (famous for his role in Star Trek) still recall those years with pain and anguish.

Among those who were imprisoned were 35 Japanese Methodist pastors. Through these pastors, the Methodist church operated in the prison camps. Personally, I cannot imagine being asked to serve as a pastor in such difficult circumstances. But those Japanese-American Methodist clergy were faithful. "Reports of baptisms, weddings and funerals continued to be reported by those pastors who ministered to their fellow internees within the camps, bringing comfort, solace and hope to them under distressing circumstances."

When the prison camps closed in 1945, Japanese-American Methodist pastors and congregants returned to their homes and their church buildings and begin to rebuild their shattered lives. What a help and a source of hope those churches must have provided during that process. They were truly beacons on a hill.

What of other Methodist pastors? What of other Methodist churches? Did they too reach out to support Japanese American Methodists? Sadly, most did not. Like their fellow countrymen, many gave into fear and

prejudice.

All these years later it is good to reflect on this chapter in history. When we do so we are reminded of how easy it is for us to fear and demonize persons we deem to be "other." I believe that we must particularly guard against this tendency during this time in our nation's life. Politics today encourage us to behave in an adversarial manner toward those who think differently, look differently or have a different religions than we do.

Actually, it is more than a good idea to guard against demonizing others. Our Lord commands that we love, not hate. Jesus said it this way, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

In short, we Christians sometimes miss the mark. Many Christians missed the mark 75 years ago when they had the opportunity to love but chose not to do so. Fortunately, we always get another chance. Today and tomorrow, we will all have fresh opportunities to love those who are "other" or "different." If we do so, the "yeast will spread, the salt preserve" and the light of God shine.

See you on Sunday, Pastor Laura



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Laura Brewster, Senior Pastor

Rev. Audrey Spencer, Assoc. Pastor

Solange Woodson, Youth Ministry Director

Jordan Burchill, Contemporary Worship Leader

Pam Detrich, Business Manager

Patricia Tracy, Office Manager

Jackie Valdez, My Friends House Director

Hope Grisham, My Friends House Assist. Director

Custodians: Ronnie Hawkins, Orlando Rodriguez

CHURCH OFFICE INFORMATION

Church Office: 512-345-1743

Website: www.nwhillsumc.org

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday: 8:30am to 5:00pm

Friday: 8:30am to 12:00pm

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

April articles are due by March 27, 2017 by 12:00pm. Send to: office@nwhillsumc.org

NORTHWEST HILLS UMC YAHOO GROUPS

Online Prayer Chain. There is an online prayer chain, with members sharing joys and concerns. To subscribe to NWHills Prayer Group simply send an email (no subject) to NWHillsUMCPrayers-subscribe@yahoo.com

Online News. Weekly news updates to subscribe send email to NWHillsUMCNews-subscribe@yahoo.com

WEEKLY BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

Bulletin submissions are due no later than

Wednesday at 8am. Email: office@nwhillsumc.org

RECEIVE THE HERALD VIA EMAIL

If you would like to receive the *Herald* via email instead of getting a hard copy in the mail, please contact Patricia Tracy with your email address.

Send your request to: office@nwhillsumc.org

CURRENT CHURCH CALENDAR

www.nwhillsumc.org

Click on Upcoming Events

NEED A NEW NAME TAG

Email: office@nwhillsumc.org

With the correct spelling of your name and one will be made for you.

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES

By now you should have a letter from me regarding my new focus in ministry as Pastor of Children & Families. It will be my honor and privilege to be praying for all the families of our church during the year. If you have a specific prayer concern please email me so I can pray specifically for your family. Each month the newsletter will list families for who prayers will be offered. I look forward to serving each of you more intentionally in the future. Stayed tuned!! We're going to have a blast!!!

In Christ,

Pastor Audrey

aspencer@nwhillsumc.org

Prayers for Families in March 2017:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Clyde & VJ Barre | Thomas & Miranda Darr |
| Martha & Roger Blomquest | Lynn Davis |
| Bill & Britt Cain | Bill & Dorothy Dewberry |
| Jim & Sue Caldwell | |
| Bob & Sharon Callison | |
| Bill Callaway | |
| Wes & Joyce Campbell | |
| Percival & Bonita Campbell | |
| Bruce & Susan Cardwell | |
| Talka Carlisle | |
| Mike & Pam Carmagnola | |
| Elizabeth Cavner | |
| Betty Caywood | |
| Michael Caywood | |
| Suzanne Chaney | |
| Sharie Chiles | |
| Eddie & Megan Church | |
| Harold & Lynne Cline | |
| Tom & Karen Coburn | |
| John & Rayann Coffman | |
| Barrie Cogburn | |
| Diane Coleman | |
| Jack & Nancy Collins | |
| Gale & Ruth Copeland | |
| Charles & Denise Cornell | |
| LaVera Cornwall | |
| Juan Cosio | |
| Larry & Diane Crawford | |
| Cummings Family | |
| Earl & Burta Dahlheim | |
| Rita Dal'Bianco | |
| Pat Damron | |



Stephen Ministry

AT NORTHWEST HILLS UMC



Since 1990, this ministry has provided confidential, one-on-one care and support for people going through difficult times at no charge. Each Stephen Minister has completed a 50-hour training course followed by continuing education and peer supervision. **So if you are experiencing one of life's crisis** we invite you to consider having a Stephen Minister to help you get through such tough times. **Or if you have a troubled loved-one or friend** you might want to suggest they look into having a Stephen Minister. **Those who receive care can be sure their identity and what happens during the caring relationship will remain private.**

To explore the possibilities call Diane Coleman at 512-795-8133 or Jack Collins at 512-539-5106.

GA G E T S & G I Z M O S

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

June 19 -22, 2017

5pm to 8pm

Vacation Bible Camp is right around the corner, for ages 3 - 10. This year the children will take the greatest adventure of all time with "Gadgets & Gizmos". They will LISTEN to God, TALK to God, and SHARE their faith. Servant hearts of all ages are needed to help with this four day adventure. Contact Audrey Spencer at: aspencer@nwhillsumc.org

NWHUMC Financial Status January 2017

	January		Year to date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Receipts plus Carryover	\$83,001	\$81,895	\$83,001	\$81,895
Expenses	\$69,420	\$84,726	\$69,420	\$84,726
Net Budget Income	\$13,581	(\$2,831)	\$13,581	(\$2,831)

Dec 31,
2016Jan 31,
2017

YTD Paydown

Church Debt

\$1,282,872

\$1,272,369

\$10,503

Our pledged income for 2017 does not meet our needs to fully fund our budget, so the NWHUMC Board approved a balanced budget for 2017 that only funds 67% of our Apportionment Benevolences but does satisfy all other budget requests. Any additional pledges will be directed to meet our Benevolences shortfall. We intend to fully fund the Benevolences shortfall with our Advent offering if necessary.

Our January income was \$1,106 above the budget and expenses were \$15,306 below budget. Part of that below budget expense was as a result of not paying any of our Apportionment Benevolences as we struggled to finalize our budget. We will catch up with our reduced payments in February.

We paid down our mortgages \$10,503 this year, \$4,808 from our budget and the remainder from continuing contributions to our Capital Campaign.

Check the financial report on the church's web page under the Finance tab at <http://nwhillsumc.org/wp/members>.

WE CELEBRATED 50 YEARS!

Celebrating last Sunday, the anniversary of our 50th Charter on it's actual day will be a memory to treasure. If you weren't able to attend, ask one of the 367 individuals that came. Find out what was important to them.

Was it meeting a charter member? Seven came!

Was it our District Superintendent's message or hearing from the Bishop?

Was it the cross that was made from the wood of our original sanctuary?

Was it taking communion and making your covenant for the next generation?

Was it enjoying time with someone you had not seen for a while, feasting in the good old Methodist way or having your picture taken together in the photo booth?

Was it just spending time together and "sharing God's love?"

There will be a video available for you to review if you could not come. There will also be a bound book donated to the library related to "what has; been and what was" that celebrated this special Sunday. We will let you know as soon as these are available. We will also be downloading to our church website random photo shots taken throughout the celebration.



Prayers of Thanksgiving

October 31, 2016, Halloween, usually a fun evening for me and my husband engaged with neighbors, especially the children. But this was the scariest of Halloweens, having to take my mom to the emergency room, and then learning she had suffered congestive heart failure. Driving to the hospital I began praying and asking God to take care of mom. Immediately the following scripture came to mind, which I thought was very odd considering the situation.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Be joyful always; pray continually; giving thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

I can't say I was joyful, but I did find reason to give thanks. Mom had actually suffered heart failure the previous Tuesday and had refused to let me take her to the emergency hospital. After several days of pleading, she did agree to see her primary care doctor, who saw her on Monday (10/31) and sent us post haste to the emergency room. So my prayer of thanksgiving at this point was that God had protected mom during that week from further heart failure and stroke. At 91 mom was still living at home alone, taking care of herself.

My next prayer of thanksgiving came upon entering the ER, there was no waiting. A host of angels in the forms of nurses, med techs and doctors attended mom's every need. Over the next 11 days in the hospital, even though it was an arduous ordeal, the blessings were poured out upon us. I continued to offer prayers of thanks recognizing God's hand in all that was happening. Blessings of a sister in Christ

taking time to bring her own prayer shawl to the hospital for mom to wrap herself in until I could retrieve mom's from her home; visits, prayers and singing with both Pastor Audrey and Pastor Laura and the expert care of a compassionate cardiologist. The most amazing blessing was when mom announced she was not going home, but directly into assisted living. Then I was awed by the quickness of God's grace in providing the financial means for assisted living to become reality. Thank you, Lord!

I will never, never doubt that God takes care of His own. Mom is a devout Christian and even through her fears, you can hear her singing, "Be not dismayed, God will take care of you" and offering prayers of praise and thanksgiving to her Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ. I will not only remember that God takes care of His own, I'll remember that a prayer of thanksgiving, even in the darkest hour brings great comfort.

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Grace & Peace, Alice Spoons



AN EVENING IN ITALY GALA

This event was held on Saturday, February 18, 2017 in our Family Life Center. It was our premier fundraising event benefiting the renovation of the kitchen for our school, My Friend's House. The evening was a great celebration of our children, community and our school. The event included a seated candlelight dinner catered by Mandola's Italian Grill, a silent auction, and live music provided by the Prairie Dogs. A variety of desserts were provided by The Bowie High School Culinary Arts Program, H.E.B. and Costco. Bowie also provided servers for the event.

The one hundred twenty-eight guests attending had the opportunity to visit with friends, meet families whose children attend MFH, and meet MFH staff. There were opportunities to join in the fun on the dance floor, bidding on one or more of the 60 plus items in the silent auction. A video of the kids at MFH was shown, that illustrated our need for the kitchen renovation and how much the children love Ms. Alma's nutritious meals.

A special thanks to Pastors Laura and Audrey for their support. Also thanks for the joint committee from My Friend's House and representatives of the NWHUMC congregation and our church staff.



SEEKING OFFICE ANGELS

This great group of dedicated servants helps out in the church office by answering phones, greeting guests and helping with office projects during office hours. If you would be interested in helping out or would like more information, please contact Patricia Tracy at office@nwhillsumc.org. Your help would be most appreciated!



NORTH HILLS GALLERY

March 1-April 2, 2017

Artist: Lesley Bradstreet is a talented photographic artist with an intriguing contemplative style.

Title: Ordinary Magic

Reception: March 5, 12:15p-1:15p

Venue: North Hills Gallery
7050 Village Center Drive (off Far West)

Time:

Monday-Thursday: 9:00am to 4:30pm
(closed for lunch 12:00pm to 1:00pm)

Friday: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Closed Saturday

Sunday: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Website: www.nwhillsumc.org



**WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
for
LENT**

March 1 **Ash Wednesday Services**
 7:00am **Chapel**
 6:30pm **Sanctuary**

April 13 **Holy Thursday Service**
 6:30pm **Sanctuary**

April 14 **Good Friday Service**
 6:30pm **Sanctuary**

April 16 **Easter Sunday Services**
 7:00am **Sunrise/Courtyard**
 8:50am **Sanctuary**
 11:15am **Sanctuary**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 3 Susannah Jacobson
 March 5 Tom Coburn
 Susan Gusler

March 7 Kathryn Fakoya
 March 8 Sarah Cavender
 Carolyn Ford

March 11 Karen Coburn
 March 12 Doug Powell
 March 13 Sharie Chiles
 Noah Longacre
 Beth Perkins

March 15 VJ Barre
 Linda Beard

March 16 Bonnie Lofley
 David Vaden

March 17 Nikki Anderson
 Pat Norton

March 18 Jean Alexander
 March 19 Dorothy Dewberry
 Connie Ellie

March 20 Marcia Lind
 March 22 Carol Bruney
 Debbie Reed

March 23 Albert Fakoya
 March 25 Betty Caywood
 March 26 Darla Nicholson
 March 29 Kristy Wisdom
 March 31 Stephanie Baggett

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS — WE HAD FUN





united methodist church
7050 Village Center Drive
Austin, Texas 78731

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



MARCH 2017

21ST ANNUAL DAMRON-DAVIDSON GOLF TOURNAMENT

WHERE: LIONS MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE
WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017
WHO: EVERYONE IS INVITED TO PLAY—WOMEN, MEN AND YOUTH

Entry Fee: \$85.00 for Adults and \$50.00 for Youth: Includes green fee, shared card, bucket of practice balls and dinner. The tournament will be followed by a Dinner and a Dessert auction in the Family Life Center—Activity Center from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Tickets for non-players are \$10.00 for Adults and \$4.00 for Children 12 and under.

Hole and Tee Sponsorship are one for \$40.00 and two for \$75.00

Registration and tickets will be available after each Sunday morning service, in the Church Office or from any member of United Methodist Men.

Questions, please contact Bob Callison, email: bobbycallison@swbell.net.
Come join the fun!!!!!!

