

December



Sunday Services

9:00 Contemporary Worship Service

10:10 Sunday School & Small Groups

11:00 Traditional Worship Service



Season of Advent

First Sunday of Advent - Peace
Second Sunday of Advent - Love
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Hope

During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the "coming" of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming.

The next four Sundays will be heart warming, spirit lifting and full of adoration and love for our Savior, be prepared to be blessed.

And my God will meet all our needs according
to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.
[Philippians 4:19](#) | [NIV](#)

Thank You to everyone who has already turned in their "Estimate of Giving" card for 2019. Your faithfulness is appreciated.

If you have yet to turn in your card, you are encouraged to do so. As we have heard in recent weeks, your gifts to God through this church allow God's work to be done within our church walls and far beyond. Please consider what you will plan to give to God in the year ahead, then bring your estimate of giving card to church next Sunday. You can place it in the offering plate at that time. You can also, of course, mail your card to the church office. The mailing address is 7050 Village Center Drive, Austin, 78731.

Special Communion Rail & Christmas Eve Offering

God gave us the most magnificent present of all when he took human form and came to dwell among us. We celebrate that great gift of love every Christmas. In gratitude and celebration of God's gift to us, our church will be giving away its entire Christmas Eve offering in an effort to share the love of God with others.

Our Christmas Eve offering will be given to two God-inspired charities:

Living Water International and Community First! Village.

Living Water International builds water wells that provide safe drinking water for some of the most impoverished communities in the world. In addition to providing clean drinking water, Living Water International shares a message about "living water"—the gospel of Jesus Christ—which alone satisfies the deepest thirst.

[Click Here to learn more about this ministry](#) or go to <https://water.cc/church>

Community First! Village is master planned community that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for the chronically homeless in Central Texas. This transformative residential program transforms the lives of our neighbors who have been living on the streets; it changes to lives of volunteers who live and work alongside of this community

too.

Please consider giving a special offering this Christmas Eve to support God's work through Living Water International and Community First! Village. Should you choose to give, give with a glad and grateful heart.

Blessings

To Russia with Love

Cindy Stone's trip to Russia is one of my favorite stories this year so I saved it for our Christmas season. I couldn't help but name it "To Russia with Love". It seemed to me to make a complete circle of love as Cindy presented the Bob Ford stained glass art to the President of the UMC Moscow Theological Seminary.

Every year during our seminary meeting, Sergei invites one of the students to share the path they traveled to reach the decision to become a pastor. We've heard stories of tragedy, abandonment, addictions, and other suffering -- enough to make me wince -- mixed with the joy of discovery that God loves even them. Their yearning to understand more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit led them, first to Bible study, then to formal education.

This year one of the students described how finding God and letting God find her changed her life. We all got a little teary-eyed, even more so when she said, "I feel like a tree that has been planted by the lake."

The water doesn't get much holier than that.

Cindy Stone



Cindy Stone

Pastor Laura praying for Cindy for safe and blessed travels to Russia.



Rev. Vera Agapova, pastor of Good News UMC in Vologda, Russia - our sister church.

Rev. Vera Agapova has been serving Good News UMC since 1997, following the tragic death of her husband in an automobile accident. She believes the love and support of her Christian community led her to attend seminary and step into leadership at her church. She has organized outreach programs for orphans, the homeless, and others in need.



Dr. Sergei Nikolaev, President of the UMC Moscow Theological Seminary Cindy is giving him the Bob Ford NWHills stained window piece.

The Moscow Theological Seminary (MTS) graduates Russian and Eurasian Methodist pastors who serve UMC churches in 11 time zones. MTS maintains one of the highest enrollments in Europe and will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2020.



Christmas

As a child I could hardly wait for the arrival of Christmas and all of the festivities associated with the holiday season. I always wished for a "white Christmas" and most of the time my wish was granted. As I reflect back on those early days I am reminded of all the customs my family had. We had an advent calendar, put up our tree, bought and wrapped presents, invited friends and family in and prepared food for our holiday meal. However, the most important event and lasting impression I have is attending Christmas Eve services with my family. Hearing the Christmas story, watching the Youth pageant and singing our favorite hymns was the highlight of the season. It was always such a joyous occasion to come together with our church friends and have this time together.

What are the customs we observe today? Do we get so busy with all the details that we forget what the meaning of Christmas is all about? Are there so many parties to attend, gifts to buy, cooking to do that we can't relate to this most joyous season? Do we make sure our children and grandchildren know the Christmas story as Matthew and Luke tell it in the Bible?

How soon we forget the true meaning as we set our priorities on the on "other" things. Let's start this year by putting the birth of Christ as the true center of Christmas. Reading the Christmas story with family and friends, adorning your home with decorations that are a reminder of Christ and attending church. Traditions are a great way to pass down family values to your children who in turn will pass them to theirs and so on.

Let's shine our light on the amazing truth that, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

By Connie Ellis



Gingerbread Café
Dec. 8 Sat. 4pm-6pm
NWHills United Methodist Church
Family Life Activity Center
Decorate a Gingerbread House
to take home!
Free Dinner & Santa telling the
Real Christmas Story



MUST RSVP AND
PREORDER/BUY YOUR HOUSE \$20
on our website nwhillsumc.org/event
or at our Welcome Center
or Church Office. **512-345-1743**



Northwest Hills United Methodist Church
Presents



A CHRISTMAS CANTATA
DECEMBER 9 - 11AM



This year's Christmas cantata is a musical celebration
of our Lord's birth,
featuring the Sanctuary Choir,
the Ring of Faith Bell Choir,
and an instrumental ensemble of brilliant musicians.

Northwest Hills UMC Living Nativity Dec 14 - 6pm & 7pm

**Free Petting Zoo
Cookies & Hot Chocolate
Bring friends & family**





CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Join us for an evening of celebrating the birth of our Savior.

- **4pm Children's pageant, Communion and Candlelight**
- **7pm Lessons and Carols, Communion and Candlelight**

What if you were following a plan for your money that you KNEW worked?

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money, get out of debt and create a plan for your future.

We'll be offering a Financial Peace University class at our church beginning January 20.

Click Here to sign up
FPU.COM/1070065



New ideas to celebrate Advent with children

Try this Advent chain — Make an Advent chain that includes ministry activities children can do. Make a link for each day

from the first Sunday in Advent, Dec. 2, through Dec. 25. Symbolizing penitence and royalty, make purple links and a white link for Christmas Day. On each link, write an activity to do as a group or church or with parents or guardians. The possibilities are endless. Tailor the activities to your church's size and the needs of your community. Ideas include:



- Bake cookies for your local fire department.
- Make paper snowflakes.
- Do a good deed for your neighbor.
- Have each member of your family finish the sentence: "To me, Christmas means...."
- Read your favorite Christmas story.
- Drink cocoa from Christmas mugs.
- Make Christmas gift tags.

Make sure you bring your children and grandchildren and to the Christmas Events this month, and tell them they can bring a friend. A new tradition!

SUNDAY

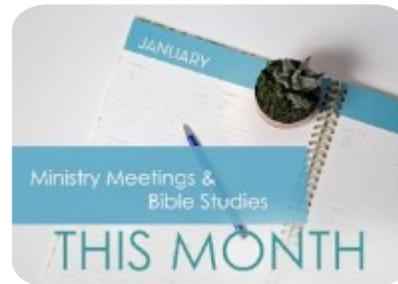


MEN'S MINISTRY 7:30 AM

Men's Kick Off Ministry | Room 106

SMALL ADULT GROUPS 10:10AM

- Singles | Room 101 | Age 20s & 30s
- 2 X 2 | Education II Bldg | Couples
- Awaken | Room 112 | All Ages
- Bible Adventures | Room 107
- Discovery | Room 110
- Discussion | Room 114
- Impressions of Jesus | Room 111
- Joshua | Room 106
- Living Water | Room 105 | Age 50+
- Seekers | Room 103 | All Ages



MONDAYS

- Men's Clothes Closet 7:30 AM
- Resource Team 8:00 AM
- Emmaus Reunion 11:30 AM
- Stephen Ministry 5:30 PM
- Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM

TUESDAYS

- Emmaus Walk 143 5:00PM
- Emmaus Reunion 7:15 AM
- Emmaus Reunion 10:00 AM
- Prayer Shawl 10:00 AM
- Emmaus Reunion 12:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

- UMM Breakfast 7:00 AM
- Emmaus Reunion 7:30 PM
- Emmaus Reunion 8:30 PM

THURSDAYS

- Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM

Emmaus Board Meet 6:00 PM
 Loss & Greif Seminar 7:00 PM

FRIDAYS

Emmaus Reunion 7:15 AM

SATURDAYS

Emmaus Reunion 7:45 AM
 Emmaus Reunion 8:00 AM



Please turn your order by this Sunday

Each year during the Christmas season we decorate our sanctuary with poinsettia plants donated by you, our church family. You may order one or more poinsettias and dedicate them in memory or in honor of a loved one. The list of donors and dedications will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletins. **You may take your poinsettia home with you following any Christmas Eve service.**

Cost of each plant: \$13.00

Help the NWHUMC Youth! *For every plant sold this year, \$1.50 will be donated to support Youth Missions.*

This year you can click below and write your dedication. You will still give your payment of \$13.00 per poinsettia to the Welcome Center or the Church Office.



December 4 Pat Brabham
 December 5 Mary Lang
 December 7 Hannah Brooks
 Susan Cardwell
 Greg Gitcho

 December 8 Susan Hammond
 Pat Markley Jr.

 December 10 Jack Collins
 Rosalind Johnson

 December 11 Cathie Trider
 December 13 Diane Coleman
 December 15 Claudia Sydney
 December 16 Lynn Davis
 December 17 Dylan McCarville
 December 18 Clyde Barre
 Jim Landrum

 December 19 Elizabeth Gunter
 December 20 Leanna Bergschneider
 December 21 Emily Norman
 December 22 Chris Carmagnola
 December 23 Shirley Irvin
 December 23 Gary Payne
 December 26 Sharon Easter
 Judy Johnson

 December 28 Willena Bedoya
 Eli Huston

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER AND WRITE YOUR DEDICATIONS](#)

Call Zel Heaney at the office if you have any questions.
512-345-1743

December 29 Deena Byers
December 30 Kevin Brown
Megan Shepherd

If you would like to be on this list please email your birthday to our office at office@nwhillsumc.

**Adorn The Scantuary Project
THANK YOU
It is beautiful because of you!**





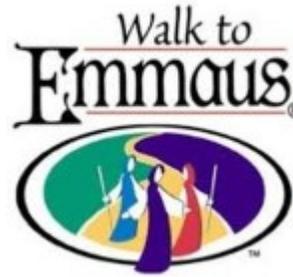
EMMAUS MEN'S WALK #145

April 11 -14 , 2019

For more information and signup

Contact Rayann Coffman

rayanncoffman@yahoo.com



The Men's Ministry serves
"The Clothes Closet for Homeless Men".

It is open Mondays (except holidays) from 9:00 AM until 11:30 AM, and has truly developed into a ministry. Each Monday is begun with a prayer prior to serving the customers. The prayer includes the words "God help us to see Christ in those we serve today and help us so they can see Christ in us".

It is cold season now and they need winter coats, winter gloves, knit caps, 30-36 jeans, 11-14 running shoes and large/extra large tee shirts. Bring them to the church lobby or church office.

FAQ's contact

Bobby Callison at 512-913-0471

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



**December 22, 2018
Open Door Brunch**



8:15am-11:00am @

DATE REVISED



PSALM 100:2, ESV

Looking for a great smile
and caring heart to serve
at **Welcome Center**.

It will warm your heart!
Be at the Welcome Center
before and after late
service.

10:40am - 11:05am
and right as service ends
11:50am -12:10pm

**You can sign up for
once a month.**

We have had a wonderful
response to the new
Outside Greeters! We
need are in need of
Greeters for
the **2nd Service. Sign up
once a month.**

10:40am - 11:05am

Just let us know what
dates you are available.

Email Us
office@nwhillsumc.org

University UMC.
Wear close-toed shoes, a
hat, and bring your smile!
UUMC serves more than
200 brunch meals to the
homeless and those in
need.

If you would like to join us.
Sign up will be in the
lobby.

2409 Guadalupe St,
Austin, Texas 78705
[CLICK HERE FOR
DIRECTIONS](#)

Contact Dee Susong if
you have any questions.
lolabeetle@gmail.com

January 12, 2019 TEXAS RAMP

Have you ever changed a
person's life in a single
day? You can on January
12!

That day we will build a
wheelchair ramp for a
person in need. In a few
hours, we will give
someone the freedom to
leave their home again!

Contact Dee Susong
lolabeetle@gmail.com

NWHUMC Financial Status October 2018					
	October			Year to date	
	Actual		Budget	Actual	Budget
Receipts plus Carryover	\$86,802		\$78,210	\$865,578	\$837,268
Expenses	\$75,493		\$80,607	\$781,003	\$824,231
Net Budget Income	\$11,310		(\$2,396)	\$84,576	\$13,037
	Dec 31, 2017		Oct 31, 2018	YTD Paydown	
Church Debt	\$1,308,511		\$1,264,999	\$43,511	

Our income for the month was \$ 8,592 above the budget and year to date income is \$28,310 above the budget. Expenses for the month were \$5,114 below budget and year to date are \$43,228 below the budget leaving us with a positive income for the year of \$71,538. The year to date expenses are skewed by an unbudgeted expenditure of \$21,994.77 for roof repair that was covered by insurance money received in December but the check to the contractor was not processed until January.

Our mortgage has been paid down \$43,511 so far this year with \$7,380 from additional contributions to pay down the mortgage.

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

Input caption text here. Use the block's Settings tab to change the caption position and set other styles.



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 Northwest Hills United Methodist Church
 7050 Village Center Drive
 Austin, Tx 78731

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