



THE HILLTOP NEWS

2820 Laredo Dr., Fort Worth, Texas 76116
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December 26, 2017

*The purpose of Western Hills United Methodist Church is to
continue the ministry of Jesus by making disciples through faith, hope and love.*

Wednesday—December 27

7:00 p.m., LaVida Cristo Centrica

Sunday—December 31

9:00 a.m., Culto de Adoración

9:30 a.m., Sunday School

10:30 a.m., Escuela Dominical

10:50 a.m., Worship Service

Monday—January 1—New Years Day

Church Office Closed

Tuesday—January 2

1:30 p.m., Heavenly Needles

Wednesday—January 3

6:00 p.m., Disciples Choir

6:30 p.m., Handbells

7:00 p.m., LaVida Cristo Centrica

7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir

Thursday—January 4

4:00 p.m., Alzheimer's Support Group

Saturday—January 6

8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Girl Scouts

6:00 p.m., Praiz'n

Sunday—January 7

9:30 a.m., Sunday School

10:30 a.m., Worship

12:30 p.m., Ministry Safe Committee

5:00 p.m., U.M.Y.F.

Monday—January 8

5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts

Tuesday—January 9

Newsletter

9:00-11:00 a.m., Food Pantry

1:30 p.m., Altar Guild

Wednesday—January 10

10:00 a.m., ESL Class

6:00 p.m., Disciples Choir

6:30 p.m., Handbell Choir

7:00 p.m., LaVida Cristo Centrica

7:30 p.m., Chancel Choir

There is a question asked by our culture on this season of Christmas, "Is there a Santa Claus?" Ken Holze, a good friend of mine, is a story teller that affirms children's hope that such a generous and giving person does exist in our childlike imaginative heart and in our longing to be loved. Each year at Christmas time, Ken shares with audiences a newspaper editor's response to an eight-year old girl's question, is there a Santa Claus with the editor's response, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus." Children imagine elves, deer, sleigh, wagons and Santa Claus. They work together to bring children the packaged gifts that their hearts desire. Certainly, this character of cheer and good will is the hope of children throughout the world that wait for the gifts of Christmas to arrive. I thank God for the desire and imagination that is within us to dream, hope, and recreate our world to be a better world to live in. So, at Christmas, much of what our world needs in terms of hope, love, joy, and peace is expressed in the joyful occasion of being the recipients of such good will wrapped around the idea of Santa Claus, or as he is referred in other parts of the English-speaking world, Father Christmas. So then, if our culture recognizes the phenomenal aspiration of the human to be loved, recognized, and affirmed, how then are our needs met by our faith in God?

My faith in God through Jesus Christ my Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit places me in the heart of Christian community which is the Church of Jesus Christ. It is within the realm of our Christian faith that Christmas means the most. Here we are blessed by the One who has the power to bless us with what we most need and want.

Our celebration of Advent and our participation in the Christmas Eve Service focused on the love of God and the birth of a child who is Christ the Lord. We, at Western Hills UMC, have been blessed by the expressions of people responding to the needs of people by sharing the love of God. Many children and adults have received winter coats and blankets. This happened as people in our community responded to an appeal through Las Vegas Trail-Love for meeting the human needs of people and for these goods to be distributed through our church. This is an act of God by which God involves our church as a channel of His love. It was so gratifying to meet many families from our surrounding community at the Christmas Eve service who were recipients of God's love. With joy, they heard Frankie Adams tell Mary's story to the children. In a way, the story defies the practical and realistic aspects of life. The story invites us to be imaginative and trustful to accept that the birth of Christ defies the ordinary. How can it be that Mary, a young girl by any account, is to miraculously give birth to the Son of God? How can this child be the Savior of the world? And what is the meaning of God's gift to me in this child born in a stable in a distant land long, long ago?

So, at Christmas we sing, "Oh, You Better Watch Out" and "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem". Both affirm our human longings, but only one points to that which is Eternal. In it "our hopes and dreams of all the years are met in Thee tonight." Hope, love, joy, and peace by yours through Jesus the Christ, Our Savior. Amen.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Raul

Supporting My Church

Current Prayer Concerns:

Sarah Eastman, Terry Meyer's daughter; Joel, Megan and Millie Eden, son and family of Steve & Linda Eden; Jan Fisher; Family of Sue Luttrell; Christi Meyer, Terry Meyer's daughter-in-law; Edna Paige; William Parsons, great-nephew of Julia Denise Moore; Sue Rampy, daughter of Frankie Adams; Becky Riibe; Jacob Toland, grandson of Cyndi Toland; JoAnn Toland, daughter-in-law of Cyndi Toland; Jimmie Wood; Mary Wright

(Current prayer concerns will be posted for one month unless a request is received for the name to continue on the prayer list)

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Penny Comparini, Beverly Contakos, Kaylan Covan, Mike Dobbs, Ted Evans, Jan Fisher, Dale Ford, Jessica Gray, Jann Green, Mike & Carolyn Grimes, Kenneth Holley, Aaron Jennings, Mike Magee, Doug McGlaun, Ethel Meads, Mildred Rankin, Camille Redden, Ann Tolleson

Our Military:

Sam Brooks, Jason Busby, Garret Comparini, Sarah Davis, Dan Fagan, Sarah Harris, Angela Herrington, Trinity Herrington, Christopher Moore, Thomas Morton, Robert Newman, Richard Ray Owens, Jr., Nicholas Perez, Jacob Rangel, Chris Sotello, Blake Strack, Johnny Waldrop, Melvin Williams, Brandon Wilson

The deadline for the next newsletter is

Monday, January 8, 2018 by 12:00 p.m.



Weekly Prayer Topics:

Week 1 - Joy and thanksgiving for the birth of our Savior.

Week 2 - New beginnings for ourselves and for the world.

With Presence

Sunday School Attendance:

December 17th	55
December 24th	70

Worship Attendance:

December 17th	115
December 24th	119
Christmas Eve	144

Spanish Worship Service

December 17th	12
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Praiz'n

December 16th	15
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Gifts of Money Needed for General Budget each week: \$5,000.00

December 17th

General Budget	\$2,396.00
Heifer Fund	6.00
ESL	125.00
Food Pantry	195.00
Music Fund	35.00
Poinsettias	170.00
WestAid	95.00

December 24th

General Budget	\$4,051.00
Heifer Fund	17.25
Food Pantry	200.00
Music Fund	100.00
Memorial Fund	500.00



SECURITY TEAMS/ LOCK UP TEAMS

December 31st
Security: Dan Brown
Lock Up: Dan Brown

January 7th
Security: Brenda Bearden
Lock Up:

If you are unable to work on your assigned day, please make arrangements for a substitute.



*To the Members of Western Hills
United Methodist Church:*

The staff wishes to thank you for the very generous love gifts that we received this year. You are a wonderful church family and we appreciate the opportunity to work with you and serve you through the work of this congregation.

Raul, Terry, Loretta, Debra, Allen, Debbie, Ami, Aimable, Efrain, The Shaws



January 1st
New Year's Day
Church Office Closed

January 13th
10:00 am, Church Planning Meeting

January 15th
Martin Luther King Day
Church Office Closed

New Year's Prayer by Charlotte Anselmo

Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And the happiness it brings.
Please give the leaders of our world
A courage born of peace
That they might lead us gently
And all the fighting cease.
Please give to all upon this earth
A heart that's filled with love
A gentle happy way to live
With Your blessings from above

January Birthdays



4—Ashley Curtis	23—Eric Navarro
5—Sue Rampy	23—Tina Shaw
5—Alyssa Michelle Lee	23—Ginny Warburton
6—Ashli Miller	25—Kristie Butler
10—Gabriel Navarro	26—Jennifer Kinnibrugh
15—Landon Cox	27—Megan Walla
16—Drew Smith	28—Ernie May
19—Todd Hindman	29—Godwin Emeh
19—Cassidy Whitmire	29—Laura Reed
19—Nash Whitmire	29—Lillian Barto
20—Brittany Butler	29—Amber Topolski
20—Dorothy Warren	
21—Dave Clark	
21—Emily Mims	

January Anniversaries

17—John & Camille Redden
17—Jerry & Ginny Warburton

