

THE HILLTOP NEWS

2820 Laredo Dr., Fort Worth, Texas 76116
817-244-1153 office@westernhillsumc.org
September 15, 2020

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

It has been said, "patience is a hard pill to swallow". COVID-19 has disrupted our lives significantly to the point that many of us long for the established routine of yesteryear. It is hard to believe that our first Sunday of virtual worship took place on March 15, 2020 on what was then the Third Sunday in Lent. In total, twenty-seven weeks have passed! One of the truths that has emerged from the pandemic is our concern for safety, that of ours and of others. With that in mind, virtual worship has become a blessing that allows us to connect with each other. There is however one problem—not everyone finds it easy to connect to the internet, specifically to Facebook Live and YouTube. What are we to do?

Cloud and Virginia Kurtin have tried hard to feel the power of worship via online. Upon feeling somewhat unfulfilled, they conveyed to me how they longed for in-person worship. I suggested that they come on a Sunday and experience worship while the worship service (using our worship team) is streaming the service. They came wearing their masks, kept social distancing, and avoided forming a crowd. Cloud and Virginia have joined a small group of our members who come into the sanctuary on Sunday morning to worship God via in person. And, please, If you are feeling sick, do not come.

I want us to be perfectly clear—increasing in-person numbers into our Sunday worship experience involves a degree of risk. Even when we follow a protocol of safety, our sanctuary has an occupancy number of 300 in the pews. Twenty-five percent occupancy will allow us to socially distance when at seventy-five in person attendance. Please pray for divine guidance in deciding to come and worship in person on Sunday morning. Come, only if you choose to come.

Virtual streaming of the worship service will be available from now on. I welcome an invitation to visit you following safety guidelines of wearing a mask, washing hands, and maintaining social distance.

May the protection of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit always be with you and guard you from all harm.

Your pastor, Raul

Supporting My Church

Current Prayer Concerns:

Gregory Burton, friend of Noelle Wise; Denise Corn, sister of Margaret Johnson;
Jerry & Janette Newman; Charles Powell;

(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:

Barbie Brewer, Joan Brown, Renee Brown, Katherine Busby, Sabrina Chelette, Penny Comparini, Beverly Contakos, Kaylan Covan, Mike Dobbs, Carole Ewing, Jessica Gray, Jann Green, Mike Grimes, Pete Gutierrez, Robert Gutierrez, Aaron Jennings, Jennifer Meister, Spencer Powell, Camille Redden, Marvin P. Rudd;

Our Military:

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

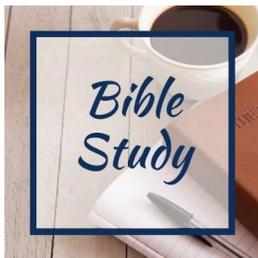
The deadline for the next newsletter is

Sunday, September 27, 2020 by 12:00

With Presence

Worship Attendance via Facebook Views:

September 6th	129
September 13th	129



In-House Bible Study starting November 1st

There will be an in-person Bible study starting on November 1st at 1:30pm at the church for 5 weeks. We will be studying various scriptures from the book of Matthew. Please send an email to fm@westernhillsumc.org or call the office at 817-244-1153 to let us know if you will be participating. There will be a requirement of wearing a mask and social distancing.

For any questions please contact Terry at the above email and phone number.

Gifts of Money Needed for General Budget each week: \$5,000.00

September 6th

General Budget	\$5,068.00
Heifer Fund	13.00
Food Pantry	120.00
UMCOR	500.00

September 13th

General Budget	\$2,848.80
Food Pantry	50.00



Flu Clinic at WHUMC

Dear Congregation,

The year 2020 has certainly been full of unexpected events. For the last 2 years, Texas Health Resources has worked with Western Hills United Methodist Church to be able to host a free flu vaccine clinic for adults. This year it will still happen, but it will be a drive through flu clinic. You do not need to get out of your car, but you should wear your mask when you come. If you do not have one, one will be provided to you. The flu clinic will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 2:00-4:30 pm. The vaccines will be provided by Texas Health Resource at no cost. Any adult may get this vaccine. It will be on a first-come, first-served basis. You do not have to be a member of WHUMC to get this vaccine. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come get this vaccine. Help us spread the word.

All of the personal protective equipment and supplies will be provided by Texas Health Resources. All of the vaccines will be administered by Texas Health nurses (RN's).

The protocol to be followed will be what Texas Health legal dept. has determined that we need use and will be in keeping with the state of Texas and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that are in place at the time of the clinic.

Stations will be set up in the parking lot to determine if someone has fever or any signs of illness, which may preclude the flu vaccine, including COVID-19. If needed, COVID-19 testing can be done on site.

We will need several volunteers that would like to come and help us direct traffic. If you would like to help, you may call me at 817-966-4286. You don't necessarily have to stay the whole 2-½ hours. Whatever you can do will be appreciated.

I strongly encourage everyone to get this vaccine. I know some of you will have already gotten it elsewhere. That is great. It is more important than ever before to get this vaccine due to COVID-19. The way this clinic will be conducted may help determine how a vaccine for COVID-19 might be administered.

Reminders:

- ◆ Wash your hands frequently.
- ◆ Stay home as much as you can to prevent being exposed unknowingly to COVID-19, especially if you are a high risk person, which many of our congregation are in that group.
- ◆ When you do go out, wear a mask. Cloth masks have been shown to be the most effective. These should be washed after each use. Gaiters, face shields and bandanas are not nearly as effective.
- ◆ Use social distancing whenever possible. When going shopping, pay attention to the signage, especially in grocery stores. Some of them have put down on the floor one-way signs for the aisles.
- ◆ If anyone has any questions about the flu clinic or COVID-19, please ask me.
- ◆ Stay alert to the medical news that is provided via reliable sites (that do not knowingly give out false information).
- ◆ Stay safe, stay healthy. I pray for our pastor, our church, our congregation and the situation the world is in presently, knowing that God is in control and we will soon be able to gather in the House of the Lord.

Blessings, Linda Eden

Cell number: 817-966-4286

Home phone: 817-246-4287

RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP GUIDELINES

All persons are welcome to return to the church for in-person worship. However, those with pre-existing conditions or those over the age of 65 are encouraged to stay home and worship with us online.

If you are sick, please do not come. If you normally bring your child/children and your child/children is/are sick, please do not come.

If you choose to return for worship service, only the doors facing the parking lot will be open and you will enter and leave through those doors. All other doors to the facility will be closed and locked.

There will be no Sunday School classes or nursery available at this time.

Hand sanitizer will be available. You are asked to bring your own mask from home. However, if you forget, one will be provided. You must wear your mask upon entering or leaving the building or if you are out of your seat for any reason. You may remove your mask during the worship service.

You are asked to sit six feet away from the next family unit (those living in the same household) or from the next individual. You will be seated every other pew to allow for social distancing.

There will be no common bulletins. As in the past, the service will be displayed via PowerPoint on the screen. You may print the bulletin which is emailed to you on Thursday and bring it with you if you desire. If you bring it with you, please remember to take it home with you after worship.

If you bring your child/children, and they need something to occupy their time during the service, you will need to bring it with you from home. There still be no pencils, crayons, coloring books, etc. in the Sanctuary. If you bring items with you to the service, please remember to take it home with home when you leave.

There will be no pew Bibles, Hymnals, Prayer Cards or Envelopes in the pew racks. You may bring your own Bible from home if you choose. If you have a prayer request, please write in on a card and place it in the basket which will also be used for collection of tithes.

If you regularly place your tithe in an envelope, please bring one from home. There will be a common collection basket in the Sanctuary so that no one touches an envelope from another individual.

You are asked to exit the building by the door facing the parking lot maintaining social distancing. Please do not congregate on the parking lot except with your own household members.