

HAPPENINGS this week at CPFUMC

08/28/2019

PLEASE find ALL of the church announcements and happenings on the website: <https://cpfumc.org>

Sunday Worship times 8:30a & 10:45a

If you prefer NOT to receive these Happenings each Wednesday, please reply and let us know that.



Christ beckons:

"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love."

Bishop Richard Wilke

PRAYERS for Help and Healing :

Recent Requests for Prayers:

Our sympathy for the Mullen family on the death of Anna's mother, Jeri Crowley.
Our sympathy for the Blount family on the death of Jodi's father, Jerry Lambert.
Lori Crank, Clara's niece, health issues
Marsha Venable back in rehab at Encompass
Charley Gray, Ruth's husband, looking for job
Jay Collett, Martha Orr's brother, lost his home
JoAnn Doak, rehab at Sagebrook(107) ... Hurry to visit if you are able Expects to go home Friday
Joe Miller, friend of Gigi Heermans, beginning treatment for a brain tumor
Gina Ray, sister of Gigi Heermans, losing her sight
Louis Smith, Jennifer Ruffcorn's uncle, in hospice care due to heart problems .
Marilyn Hartman, to wear hearing aid without protest
Paul Phillips, Ann Pattridge's brother, in hospital with blood clots ...
Ruff Ruffcorn; heart problems; out of hospital now but still dealing with problems
Dub Feazell, Dean's father, in hospital with kidney failure & heart valve problems
All families affected by shootings in El Paso and Dayton
Barett Wellington, Sterling's friend, Hodgkins and non Hodgkin's lymphoma
Our sympathy to Bonnie How & family on the accidental death of her Aunt in Canada
Carol Baxter, Russ Lundstrom's mother, recently widowed ...

PRAYERS of THANKS!! :

THANKS Peter was here earlier and delivered a beautiful prayer shawl. BIG BIG Thank You's for the shawl, cards, prayers and good wishes! Hope to see everybody soon. ?? Love, JoAnn Doak

THANKS Plenty of food on "Backpack" shelves Little lunch items & veggies needed

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, August 28th

11:30a ** Young at Heart w/ Helen Steiner Rice !!
1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class –
6p-8p Youth Midweek Manna

THURSDAY, August 29th

FRIDAY, August 30th

9:00am Men coffee at Randall's Cypress Creek
10:00a Weekly Women's Coffee

SATURDAY, August 31st

SUNDAY, September 1st

8:30a WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate, Communion,
9:45a ** Sunday School for all ages
10:45a WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate, Communion
1pm NO YOUTH

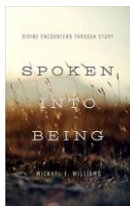
MONDAY, September 2nd Labor Day Holiday

Monday Moanings for youth
7:30-9p Centering Prayer

TUESDAY, September 3rd

9:30a Morning Worship
10:00a Bible Study
11:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:30p TRUSTEES

**** More Information Below**



WEDNESDAY, September 4th

Noon **** Book Group** (Brown Bag ..)
 1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class –
 6p-8p Youth Midweek Manna

LOOKING FORWARD !!

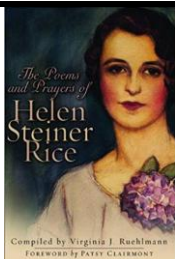
Mon	Sept 9	2:15p	ESL / GED Begin	Wed	Sept 18	9:30a	Membership Care
Mon	Sept 9	6:30p	FINANCE	Fri	Sept 20		NEWSLETTER INPUT
Sat	Sept 14	9am	UMW	Sun	Sept 22		12-Step Sunday Worship Celebration
Sun	Sept 15	3:30	Worship at The Pointe	Sun	Sept 22	3pm	Soul Lift Worship
Mon	Sept 16	6:30p	CHURCH COUNCIL	Sat	Oct 5	9a-1p	Congregation Work Day

Please Check the complete calendar at <https://cpfumc.org/>

WED, AUG 28TH

YOUNG AT HEART

11:30A

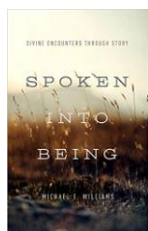


- Young at Heart is the church's monthly fellowship group.
- We'll be meeting again on Wednesday, August 28 at 11:30am in the Sanctuary.
- Please **bring a salad** or dessert to share.
- After lunch, Charlene Savoca will give us a dramatic portrayal of the poet, Helen Steiner Rice.
- Please make plans to join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and learning.

METHODIST READING CLUB

Wed. Sept 4th

SPOKEN INTO BEING; Divine Encounters through Story



By Michael W. Williams Upper Room Books, 2017 109 pages
Join Us For A Noon Brown Bag Book Discussion On Wednesday, Sept. 4th
 How storytelling helps us explore our lives and meet God in new ways.
 Everyone is a storyteller, according to Michael Williams, and all of us are on a spiritual journey.
 Storytelling helps us make sense of our lives, the world around us, and God. When we tell stories, we speak a world into being just as God did in the creation accounts in the book of Genesis. Spoken into Being is a guide to telling our own stories

CALL TO ACTION

BACKPACKS FOR WHITESTONE ELEMENTARY

REFILL SHELVES

BACKPACK started this week Thank YOU Backpack shelves are stocked ..

EACH WEEK: We will prepare 6 backpacks per week

Remember: Two Breakfasts Two Lunches Two Dinners Four Snacks

AUGUST

YOUTH

8/28 WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK MANNA (6-8PM at Randall's)
 8/29 THURSDAY Thrust devotional via GROUPME
 9/1 SUNDAY NO Youth (Labor Day Holiday)
 9/8 SUNDAY Resume at noon-2:30p, lunch then worship then activity
Mission Work: Collecting food items in the neighborhood: Church & Pumpkin Patch outreach
 10/12-15 Mission Trip to Eagle Pass, TX

Volunteer to furnish lunch for the YOUTH ... Sign Up on list on back table in sanctuary....

AUGUST

SUMMER STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAYS



RECKLESS LOVE: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor

NOW !!

THE DISCUSSION GROUP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
 will be reading UMC Pastor TOM BERLIN'S book

CALL TO ACTION UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) HTTP://WWW.UMWRIOTEXAS.ORG

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, September 14 !! ALL women are welcome to join us in the library @ 9
The UMW is collecting toiletries that will be taken to the McAllen/Brownsville to provide relief to the immigrant families waiting for court dates at the border..

MISSION PROJECT 2019 RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING SEPT 27TH – 29TH in McAllen

Good Neighbor Settlement House Brownsville TX was established in 1953 by the women of First United Methodist Church in Brownsville. Services provided include food, showers, clothing, and health care. Right now the migrant community is in need of our help. Listed are items that can be donated. Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Bath Soap, Deodorant, Feminine Products, Wet Wipes, Disposable Razors, Band Aids, Hygiene Products, Gallon Ziploc Bags & Cash & Gift Cards to Walmart or HEB

CALL TO ACTION REMEMBER: HCCM!! HELP MOST NEEDED

Also, contributions for the this past week was 12 pounds- Thank you so much to all who participated!! Bob

CANNED ITEMS

(* Items most needed at this time)

Stew*	Soup*	Spaghetti Sauce	Fruit Cocktail	Peanut Butter
Tuna*	Spaghetti O's	Corn	Pineapple*	Jelly*
Chicken*	Tomatoes*	Peas*	Apple Sauce*	Orange Juice
Chili*	Tomato Sauce*	Mixed Vegetables	Peaches*	Apple Juice

DRY ITEMS	PERSONAL CARE ITEMS
Dried beans (1 or 2 lb. pkgs. only)	Bar Soap*
Cold Cereal*	Dish Soap*
	Laundry Detergent*
Spaghetti/Pasta (1 or 2 lb. pkgs. only)*	Toilet Tissue*
Hot Cereal	Toothpaste*

Items we do not accept: Items from home freezers & Homemade or home-canned food items

MON SEPT 9TH ESL & GED CLASSES COMMUNITY ACTION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

ESL/GED classes at Cedar Park FUMC All Classes are Free!!
Classes begin Monday, September 9th = will meet Mondays: 2:30-5pm & Fridays: 10a-1pm
For more Information please contact: Suzanne Johnson, sjohnson@communityaction.com 512.971.4380

AUGUST 2019 INFORMATION ON CHURCH VITALITY!

Month to Date Finances		This Week's Attendance
Anticipated expenses	\$ 21,865.	<u>August 25th</u>
Contributions (4/4) Sundays	\$ 15,705.	<u>8:30am</u>
Still Needed:	\$ 6,160.	26(Visitors 3)
Additional Giving		<u>10:45am</u>
\$2 For 20	\$ 305.	68(Visitors:1)
True Vineyards (Rwandan Widow)	\$ 104.	
Communion (HCCM)	\$ 450.	<u>Sunday School</u>
Communion (Holding Inst)	\$ 100.	Children: 15
Youth	\$ 150.	Adults: 25
Prayer Shawl Ministry	\$ 125.	<u>Soul Lift (4)</u>

ON-GOING HAPPENINGS !!

SECOND CALL DINNER TABLES FOR ALL

This is a small group adult fellowship meeting built around having dinner together in private homes. The rotation of participants – six to a meal – means we can get to know a different mix of people each time we meet for dinner over the course of one year. The host calls to set an agreeable date to all and also

gets to choose the main dish. In potluck fashion, others bring the rest of the meal – salad, rolls, vegetable and dessert, etc.

Once we identify all who are interested, we will play mix and match with the names to give maximum meeting opportunities to all who participate. Singles and couples adding up to six people come for dinner once a season. That’s right, Tables for All meets four times a year. The more people who sign up, the more interesting it is.

Please consider trying out this new adult small group meeting by contacting Carolyn Smith. Please also indicate whether you can or cannot be a host.

I am interested (name & contact info): _____

I can be a host (circle one) Yes No

YOUTH MORE NEWS

Plans being made for future trip to the Holy Land

THURS, SEPT 5TH TAI CHI BEGINNER CLASS 9:30A-11:30A

ALL are welcome to attend a Tai Chi Beginner Class Open House at Cedar Park First United Methodist sponsored by the Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA Texas Branch.

For more information contact texas@taoisttaichi.org or 512.339.9004

WED, SEPT 11TH LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE !! 6:00-7:30P

Are you looking for something fun to do? Learn to Square Dance: Lessons Sept 11-Dec 11th, 2019

FREE INTRODUCTORY NIGHT Wednesday, Sept. 11th Location: CP FUMC

For More Information: Arnold Gladson 512.914.1335 / arnold@gladson.us / www.glad2call.com

DELL OPTIPLEX 980 SMALL FORM FACTOR DESKTOP COMPUTER \$175

A perfect machine for a student, home office or to downsize from that old, clunky full-size tower machine. Latest Windows 10 Professional operating system and Microsoft Office software included

Hardware

- Dell OptiPlex 980 Small Form Factor – Service Tag BW04MN1
- 3.46 GHz Intel Core i5-670 processor (dual core, 4 threads), 4MB cache, 73w
- 8GB RAM (16 GB max)
- 250GB Samsung 860 EVO solid state drive
- DVD R/W+ drive
- Wired Gigabit network port
- 8 x USB 2.0 ports (2 front/6 rear)
- Low profile PCIe x16 and PCI expansion slots
- eSATA port
- Integrated Intel Media Graphics Accelerator X4500HD
- VGA and Display Port video outputs
- Audio: 2x stereo line in and 2x stereo line out (1 front/1 rear)
- Serial and parallel I/O ports
- Dimensions: 11.81”H x 3.46”W x 12.87” D
- Weight: 13.0 lbs
- 235w power supply
- AC power cable included

Dell Keyboard,

Dell Mouse

22” Dell monitor with Dell AX510 soundbar available at additional cost (\$65)

Software Included

- Windows 10 Professional 64-bit v1903 (latest)
- Microsoft Office 2016 Professional (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Access, One Note)



TIDBITS

PROJECT TRANSFORMATION HEADED TO AUSTIN NEXT

We have big news that we want everyone to hear. Project Transformation is coming to the Austin area. Starting September 1st, our Young Adult Development Director, Mitchel Lambert, will be based in Austin where he will serve

as "boots on the ground" in the Capital District. He has been the National Leadership Fellow working with PT Rio Texas this year sponsored by Project Transformation National. Mitchel has served at Project Transformation North Texas and Rio Texas in many different roles. He is a graduate of LSU, and a newlywed. Mitchel wants to grab coffee with you and get to know the Austin community better. We want to invite you to partner with us and our expansion efforts, participate as we live into PT's mission, and learn how we plan to impact the Children, College students, and Churches we work with. If your church has the availability for Mitchel to office out of, he would love to meet with you and discuss what that partnership could look like.



2020 Capital District Sites

We are excited to announce our Site Churches in the Capital District for the summer of 2020! PT has been aiming for Austin since its inception in 2015 and it is finally happening.

The Project Transformation Board, upon the recommendation of the Austin Advisory council, approved two locations for our first summer in the Capital District. These sites will be at **Leander United Methodist Church** and at the **Getsemani Community Center of First United Methodist Church, Georgetown**.

Choosing Austin locations can be tricky as those you who live there know: traffic is always a factor and so is housing.

We are always looking for individuals and churches to partner with us as we learn and grow in this new geography. If you feel called to partner with PT and our expansion efforts into the Austin area, please, reach out to Mitchel at mitchell@riotexas.org or email us at projecttransformation@riotexas.org.

Our Intern Application opens on October 15th! We are excited to share all of our results for Summer 2019 in September. Thank you for supporting Project Transformation's mission and impacting the lives of Children, College students, and Churches in the Rio Texas Conference and beyond.

GAY DAUGHTER SENT BISHOP BACK TO SCRIPTURES

BY BISHOP RICHARD WILKE

Nearly 35 years ago my wife, Julia, and I wrote the first Disciple Bible Study, an in-depth curriculum that eventually numbered four studies in all. Almost 3 million people around the world have taken at least one of the studies.

Among my greatest joys has been hearing the countless stories of how Disciple has changed lives, inspired calls to ministry, restored marriages, and healed and strengthened congregations. Understanding how God has used this study to bring positive change to our church has been both rewarding and humbling.

That is why the current divide in our United Methodist Church over homosexuality breaks my heart. I have given my life to revitalizing the church and bringing people to Christ. I want to say that allowing this issue to separate us seems incomprehensible — but I suppose I can comprehend it on a certain level.

Thirty years ago our daughter Sarah shared with Julia and me that she is gay and that she had entered into a committed relationship. She came out to us when she was 27 years old. We never imagined this was anything that would touch our family. While I had never studied in depth the passages in the Bible that seem to condemn homosexuality, I felt the Bible was clear, and as a pastor and leader in the church I stood by what our United Methodist Book of Discipline said.

Now, however, I was facing this matter as a parent. The night that Sarah shared her news with us, Julia and I talked, and we were immediately at peace with knowing that her homosexuality was not a result of her upbringing. We had raised all four of our children in a loving, Christ-centered home. In one way or another, all of our children have devoted themselves to a life of faith and service in the church. Sarah heard a call to mission at a young age, and over the years she has served in United Methodist roles ranging from director of an inner-city community center to religious publisher. She is a lifelong member of the church.

The young woman before us that night wanted to be loved and accepted, but she wasn't a troubled, tortured soul. She was happy and whole, and Julia and I believed that her sexual orientation was how God had made her. That night we learned something new about our daughter, but we loved and cherished her just the same, if not more.

Still, I knew I had some work to do. I needed to reconcile my commitment to scriptural authority with loving and accepting my daughter. Frankly, I was amazed at my lifelong ignorance about homosexuality. I had spent my ministry dealing mostly with the uses, misuses, and abuses of sex among heterosexuals. But I did not understand or worry about my energetic, popular youth fellowship leaders who never went out on dates. I was grateful for the Wesleyan Service Guild women, some of whom lived together and cared for each other for 50 or 60 years. I didn't give any thought to the private lives they must have had or even the pain that their secrets must have inflicted.

So I began my own journey. I reached out to other families with homosexual members, and I listened to their stories of struggle in the church. And I began a more in-depth examination of the Scriptures that address the issue of homosexuality. You may be surprised to know I hadn't fully done my homework here, but the truth is, if you have a big-picture grasp of the Bible as I do, then you will understand just how insignificant these few passages are.

How can I say anything in the Bible is insignificant? Because not all passages in the Bible were created equal. For example, the books of the minor prophets, such as Malachi and Obadiah, can't be compared to the power and significance of Genesis and Exodus. There is a reason many Bibles use red letters to set Jesus' words apart: The color highlights their importance relative to the surrounding text.

I also know very well about the danger of plucking a particular Bible passage out of its context and using it to prove something. No doubt some Scriptures ring with such timeless clarity that we don't need to know their particular place in the Bible — passages such as “you shall have no other gods before me” and “love your neighbor as yourself.”

But generally, Scripture shouldn't have to hide from its context. In fact, context often heightens — or diminishes — a passage's meaning and significance. Remember, too, that Jesus is the Word made flesh. He is Lord, even of the Bible!

So keeping this understanding in mind, I took each passage that addresses homosexuality and examined its context. I looked at the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, which has been used over the centuries to claim that homosexuality is a sin - the so-called “sin of Sodom.” The angry townspeople were eager to rape and humiliate the strangers who were visiting Lot.

But I think it is fairly easy to see that the sin was not homosexuality but rather the townspeople's violent inhospitality to strangers. I say “easy,” because you don't have to look beyond the Bible to understand this. The prophet Ezekiel identified it when he wrote: “This was the guilt of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.” In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus also implies that Sodom was guilty of ugly inhospitality.

We know, of course, that the Holiness Code in Leviticus and Deuteronomy forbids homosexual acts between men. But we forget the context: This code was designed for the specific purpose of setting the Jews apart from the Canaanites. It was not intended as a universal morality. It was peculiar to the Hebrews — and to the times. It reflected one side of the constant tension in Judaism, as well as in all religions, between exclusion and inclusion.

Neither Jews nor Christians obey the Holiness Code today. Christians eat shrimp because Jesus said, “It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” We do not stone those who commit adultery because Jesus said, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Nor would anyone today justify killing children who talk back to their parents.

The Apostle Paul does graphically list sins where women have sex with women, and men with men, but again, context is everything. Paul was familiar with only two kinds of homosexual activity: when wealthy Greeks would buy young boys as slaves and sexually exploit them, and when part of the Greek-Roman world would go to male and female prostitute-priests as a form of fertility or mystery cult worship. Neither of these ancient practices, of course, has any resemblance to the loving, faithful relationships that I witness in my family and among our family friends.

Fixating on those words also misses the larger point that Paul was simply trying to list every sin he could think of. He wanted to show that all of us have fallen short, that we are all sinners in need of the atoning grace of God. As I reflect on the list of sins, I know not a day goes by that I'm not in need of grace.

But Jesus and his ministry concern me most. Time and again, he deliberately focused on the marginalized. He healed the crippled, the demon-possessed and the sick. He performed miracles in the synagogue, although religious leaders scolded him that the labor and healing violated the Sabbath. A desperate woman, bleeding for years, an outcast, touched the hem of Jesus' cloak and was healed. Our Lord forgave the prostitute who wept at his feet. He cured a Roman soldier's servant, though the Jews despised the oppressive Roman occupation.

Samaritans were even more detested than the Romans. Yet Jesus upended all convention when he cast a “good Samaritan” as the hero of his parable.

The hatred and condemnation of others all seems to be the very opposite to both the action and the teachings of Jesus. He laid the groundwork for the church to accept Gentiles when he said, “I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.”

Again and again Jesus placed kindness and acceptance over custom and social norms. “Love one another,” he commanded, “as I have loved you.” He also emphasized hospitality: “When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. And you will be blessed.”

If we are to be Christ followers, how can we reject the LGBT community in light of Jesus' ministry?

And yet, make no mistake, I am not condoning sin. As I've said, I've spent a lot of ministry doing pastoral counseling, dealing with people with various sexual issues. I believe sex, like fire, can do a lot of harm and a lot of good. There are many sexual sins that are foreign to faith, among them prostitution, pedophilia, rape, promiscuity and exploitation. But I also believe from my own knowledge and personal experience that Christ Jesus can capture the heart of anyone — gay or straight — and lead them into faithful, stable and loving relationships.

I am proud to be among the many parents, filled with the love of Jesus, who are putting their arms around their gay sons and lesbian daughters. I am grateful that my daughter has experienced the joy of a 30-year marriage, and our family has been blessed by their relationship.

Nothing in my 70 years of ministry would lead me to believe that The United Methodist Church would or should divide over these few misunderstood passages of Scripture. I am offering this message because, I believe that Jesus is Lord of the Bible, and all of his teachings direct us to create a loving and inclusive community of faith. I ask for your prayers for the church. Lift your voice in affirmation of our great tradition and help us to find a way forward to heal, and not divide.

Christ beckons: “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.”

Wilke was bishop of the Arkansas Area from 1986 until his retirement in 1994. He and his late wife, Julia Kitchens Wilke, together created the acclaimed Disciple Bible Study series and co-founded the Institute for Discipleship that bears their name at United Methodist-related Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas.