

HAPPENINGS this week at CPFUMC

01/22/2020

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.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8 KJV

"We do not think ourselves into new ways of living, we live ourselves into new ways of thinking." ...

"Most of us were taught that God would love us if and when we change. ...

"every time God forgives us, God is saying that God's own rules do not matter as much as the relationship that God wants to create with us." *Fr. Rohr*

PRAYERS *for Help and Healing :*

Recent Requests for Prayers:

Cynthia, Ruth Gray's sister, having really bad asthma.
Debbie MacCarrol, lots of pain from compression cracks in spine
Steve Hamman on the death of his brother .
Bruce Anderson, Carol Slater's brother had heart valve replacement Recuperating well !!!
Edna Soto, recovering from foot fracture
Glenda Goss very ill with serious infection (home from hospital)
John Miner, had a new cornea implanted Practicing seeing !!
JoAnn Doak, is waiting for more treatment ... not progressing as well as hoped
Marilyn Hartman, at The Pointe . had: shot in eye for macular degeneration,
Rick Surratt, cousin of Linda Sheneman
Sue Beall, Par Keyes' sister-in-law, is in icu with major breathing issues
The Grady Smith family, on his death Saturday
Anders Price & family, his continuing battle with autoimmune encephalitis; hopeful with new plan of care
Carmelo Perez & Ida Ramirez and all the family in Puerto Rico, by Edna Soto
Erin Koepper, Glenda Morrison's granddaughter, needs bone marrow transplant.
Grace Perez, Rio TX UMW President, at home recuperating from a stroke ..
Hyacinth Fenty, "new knee" so happy to see her at church on Sunday
Linda Howard, Steve's wife, is being cared for at home, finished radiation, checkup 6 weeks

PRAYERS *of THANKS!! :*

Thanks A Little Rain is helping the spring wildflowers sprout (seeing bluebonnets already!!!)

Thanks: For healing hurts when we fall

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!

NEEDED **VASES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS** **WIDE OPENINGS(6"), PLZ**

If you have "wide opening" vases that could be used for the altar flowers, the flower ministry has only one left on the shelf ...

AVAILABLE **SHIPPING BOXES** **FREE**

Please put a note in the Happenings that I have numerous shipping boxes from Marilyn's move. All free if you donate something to the youth trip to the Holy Land. Sterling

WED. JAN 22; 6-7:30 **FUN, FITNESS, FRIENDSHIP** **DANCE**

It's a New Year!!! Learn to Square Dance !! Buckles & Bows Square Dance Club is offering lessons at CPFUMC. First Lesson is Wed. Jan. 22 at 6:00p. First Lesson is FREE...

SAT JAN. 25, 9:00 AM

UNITED METHODIST MEN (UMM)

WEEKEND CELEBRATION

ALL ARE INVITED TO WESLEY UNITED METHODIST MEN'S DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATION

SATURDAY BREAKFAST Speaker: Mike Denton, Travis County Court-at-Law Judge – Retired & Candidate for Travis County Attorney

SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service Speaker: Ralph Thompson, Rio Texas Conference Lay Leader & Delegate to United Methodist Church General Conference May 2020

ALL EVENTS will be held at: Wesley UMC ; 1164 San Bernard St, Austin, 512-478-7007
thedeskofwesley@sbcglobal.net

SUN, JAN 26TH

BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION

9:45-10:30AM

Jan. 19th is the starting date for a Bible study led by Pastor Peter during the Sunday School hour in the MMB Conference Room. The guidebook is **“Breaking the Code”** by Bruce M Metzger
The book of Revelation conjures up many images: passages of great beauty, passages of comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening.
How are we readers today to discern God’s message in this peculiar part of the Bible?
Come to this Sunday School Discussion to unravel this message.....

JANUARY 26TH

CHOIR

prepare for Lent & Easter - Easter is April 12th 2020

Jan. 26th - rehearsal after second service
Feb. 2nd -rehearsal after second service
Feb. 9th rehearsal and sing TFWS
Feb. 16th - I'm out
Feb. 23rd - rehearsal and sing TFWS
March 1st - rehearsal and sing TFWS
March 8th - 22nd - I'm out with my choirs in Vietnam
March 29th - sing When You Prayed Beneath the Trees
April 5th - I'm out but sing Sing Hosanna!
April 9th - Holy Thursday - sing At the Lamb's High Feast
We Sing
April 10th-Good Friday sing When You Prayed Beneath the Trees

April 12th - Easter sing Come and Sing an Easter Praise and Sing Hosanna!
April 19th - sing and 3:15 at The Pointe - sing Easter songs and Holy Thursday song at The Pointe
April 26th - off
May 3rd - I'm out with Sab so off
May 10th - rehearsal - new music for Pentecost
May 17th - rehearsal
May 24th - rehearsal
May 31st - sing for Pentecost
Off for Summer come back in late September for Advent and Christmas

JANUARY 26TH

YOUTH

NEWS!

Thank YOU ALL so much for supporting this venture to the Holy Land by the youth !!!

Continuing our efforts to send youth on Holy Lands Trip 2021 :

CPFUMC Youth are collecting gently loved cloths and household items for Savers FUNDrive
<https://fundrive.savers.com/> Donated items can be left in **youth room** or youth trailer. They will be store the bags of items then take them to SAVERS where they will be paid by the pound for the items.

The..HOLY LAND TRIP meeting with details (cost/payments schedule/ itinerary/deadlines etc) being shared.
ALL interested-family, friends, attended the information meeting on the 12th. To find more information go to <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p1E3N3zLkOjU0027YvehUogZo6kol2P-/view>

Go YOUTH!! Peace, Suzette

SUN, JAN 26TH

JIM WALLIS

UNIVERSITY UMC

Jim Wallis is coming to UUMC! He’s on tour with his latest book, *Christ in Crisis: Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*, and he’ll be stopping at UUMC on Sunday, **January 26 at 6 pm**. Jim Wallis is a nationally respected speaker, writer, teacher and activist. He’s also the founding president of Sojourners. This is a great opportunity for UUMC, and I hope that you’ll share this event with friends and send out lots of invitations.

SUN. JAN 26TH NOON-TUES, 28TH

TX UMW LEGISLATIVE EVENT

FEB 5 / 15

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)

REORGANIZING SESSION

Please Plan to attend

NEXT MEETING: 5/15th To help decide how we want to look & BE !!..

WED, JAN 29TH 11:30A

YOUNG @ HEART

COMPUTER HOW TO

Bring a salad or dessert to share and come enjoy the senior community as they learn a little more about their computer How To's & Not To's for ALL those that are Young @ Heart

Here are the topics that I am thinking about covering in no particular order. There are probably more than will fit into a 45-minute class, so I plan to prepare them all and let the class choose. I can cover the remaining ones in a later class:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browser Bookmarks • Dashlane and Password Management • Disk Cleanup and Optimization • Google Docs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy (Brave and DuckDuckGo) • Scams • Viruses, Malware and Virus Protection |
|---|--|

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, January 22nd

1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class

THURSDAY, January 23rd

FRIDAY, January 24th

9:00am Men coffee at Randall's Cypress Creek

10:00a Weekly Women's Coffee

SATURDAY, January 25th

1pm Spiritual Gifts Leaders Meet

SUNDAY, January 26th

Sun Jan 26th – Tues Jan. 28th TX UMW Legislative Event

8:30a WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate, Communion

9:45a Sunday School for all ages

Revelation Study in Conference Rm

10:45a WORSHIP, Come, Celebrate,

Noon Choir Practice

Noon **YES YOUTH**

MONDAY, January 27th Monday Moanings for youth

6:30p CHURCH COUNCIL

7:30-9p Centering Prayer

TUESDAY, January 28th

9:30a Morning Worship

10:00a Bible Study

11:00a Prayer Shawl Ministry

WEDNESDAY, January 29th

11:30a Young @ Heart (see above)

1:00p Easy Line Dancing Class

LOOKING FORWARD !!

Sat Feb 1 8am ReThink Mission

Mon Feb 3 6:30p TRUSTEES

Mon Feb 10 6:30p FINANCE

Mon Feb 17 6:30p COUNCIL

Thur Feb 6 5:00p UMW ??

Sat Feb 15 9:00a UMW ??

Wed Feb 19 9:30a Membership Care

Fri Feb 21st Newsletter Input

Tue Feb 25 5p Shrove Tuesday

Wed Feb 26 7pm Worship Ash Wed.

Sat Feb 22 8am Spiritual Gifts Class

Sat Feb 29 8am Spiritual Gifts Class

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

SAT., FEB. 1 8AM-NOON

RETHINK MISSION

OAK HILL UMC



Mark February 1 on your calendar to gather your fellow church members and attend the **Rethink Mission** event of the Capital District United Methodist Church to be held at Oak Hill UMC , 7815 Hwy 290 West - Austin

Come hear stories about local law enforcement and non-profits on the front line of ministering to and with the homeless in the Austin area. **Chris Baker**, Executive Director of **The Other Ones Foundation (TOOF)**, will be one of our presenters. Learn

more about these ministries, about how sister churches are serving this population, and how your home church can become involved. Learn more about The Other Ones Foundation at [here](#).

For an agenda and workshop listing - click [here](#). Informational flyer [here](#). Please share with and around your church!

8:00 – 8:45 am – Main Building Fellowship Hall Gather/register/breakfast

9:00 – 9:45 am Sanctuary Opening Plenary Session

Welcome – Rev. Jim Roberts, Senior Pastor Oak Hill UMC

Introduction – Rev. Teresa Welborn, D.S.

Stories from the Mission Field – Who is My Neighbor? –

The Hungry – Rev. Jon Snape, Pastor Covenant UMC –

The Homeless - Chris Baker, Executive Director, The Other Ones Foundation –

The Immigrant – Rev. Elizabeth Wright, Executive Director, Austin Region Justice for our Neighbors
Holy Communion Sending Forth

10:00 – 10:50 am Workshop Session 1 Adult Education Building A.

- A. Food Pantry Hospitality Rev. Jon Snape, Pastor; Nancy Bertolino & Bob Weeks- Covenant UMC & Mentoring: Akins HS Student Ministry : Sandee Setterquist - Manchaca UMC
- B. Faces of the Homeless: Chris Baker, Executive Director; The Other Ones Foundation & Drew McAngus, Deputy Constable - Travis County Precinct 3
- C. Disaster Recovery – Update on Recovery Efforts Throughout Texas: Jim Balthazar -Westlake UMC
- D. Immigrants Stories Rev. Elizabeth Wright, Executive Director - Austin Region Justice for Our Neighbors Partnering with Casa Marianella Revs. Jason Morris, Pastor; & Cesar Soto, Assoc. Pastor, Austin New Church

11:00–11:50 am Workshop Session 2 Adult Education Building A.

- A. Seeking the Seekers Rev. Aaron Carter, Associate Pastor - Pflugerville UMC & Project Transformation Renee Purvis and Meagan Altman - Leander UMC
- B. Bus Stop Ministry Abel Vega, Director of Outreach Vitality - Rio Texas Conference & A Drink of Water - Border Visits Ann Finch - Westlake UMC
- C. LGBTQ Ministries – What Next? Shelley Walters - St. John's UMC
- D. Cold Weather Shelter/Compass Network Jon Nelson - Oak Hill UMC & Men's Clothes Closet Bob Callison - Capital District United Methodist Men & Start with Breakfast Rev. Cathy Stone, Associate Pastor - First UMC Austin

JAN 22

HCCM

PROGRAMS

This week CP FUMC donated 10 pounds of groceries

Address: 1005 Lacy Dr, Leander, TX 78641

Phone: (512) 259-0360

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed. & Fri. from 9a-12p, 1p-3p; Thursday: 9a-12p, 1p-7p ; Closed Saturday & Sunday

Food Pantry

HCCM operates a Food Pantry that stocks nonperishable food and essential personal care items donated by churches, businesses, organizations, schools and individuals. Click [here](#) (Español - [clic aqui](#)) to see income guidelines. The Food Pantry is supplemented by food from Central Texas Food Bank. And additional food is purchased from HEB. Last year, HCCM distributed nearly 5,000 family food orders, 335 tons of food, 560,000 meals!

We serve the following zip code areas: 78613, 78641, 78642, 78645, 78717, 78726, 78729, 78732, 78750, & 78759

Thrift Store

HCCM's Thrift Store is a place for the community to give back to neighbors in need...while shopping! If you're looking to make purchase or make donations, visit 1501 Leander Drive, Building C - Unit 3, Leander, Texas 78641. We're open Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. [Learn more here!](#)

If you're in need of clothing, you need to meet with an HCCM case manager first. Qualified clients can receive vouchers for clothing for children and adults. Additionally, HCCM provides qualified clients with coats, jackets, and new socks and underwear.

Fresh Food For All

Fresh Food for All is a strategic response to hunger and poor nutrition. HCCM goes directly to areas in need to distribute fresh produce to clients, allowing them to select the produce that fits their preference.

With donated produce, a few tables, and some willing volunteers, we distributed over 63,300 pounds of food in 2017. In 2018, we served 13,404 individuals over 106,800 pounds of food. In 2019, we're adding distributions, serving more people, and distributing more food!

[Visit our Fresh Food for All site to learn more!](#)

Starbucks Food Rescue

Every night, HCCM visits 30 area Starbucks stores to rescue end-of-day, edible foods that the store would instead discard.

These items are redistributed to our Food Pantry clients, other local pantries, and ACC Cypress Creek students in need. In 2017, over 24,000 pounds were rescued. In 2018, we rescued 74,763 pounds. In 2019, we expect to rescue at least 80,000 pounds of food.

Other Assistance

In addition to food and clothing, HCCM provides vouchers for free eye exams and glasses through a vision program and a grant. Our Laces programs provides new athletic shoes for school-age children.

HCCM partners with Austin Diaper Bank to supply diapers not only to our clients, but also to the community.

Referrals

HCCM actively refers clients to more than 75 agencies for access to additional community resources to help stabilize their situation.

Hill Country Community Ministries posts a "Job of the Week" on "Workforce Wednesday" on Facebook. Click the link and like our page to see our postings.

January 2020

INFORMATION ON CHURCH VITALITY!

MTD

Year to Date Finances Overview		This Week's Attendance
		<u>January 19th</u>
Anticipated expenses	\$ 21,865.	<u>8:30am</u> 25(Visitors 2)
Contributions (3/4) <i>Sundays</i>	\$ 16,565.	
Still Needed:	\$ 5,300.	<u>10:45am</u> 73(Visitors:5)
Additional Giving		
\$2 For 20	\$ 138	
True Vineyards (Rwandan Widow)	\$ 30.	<u>Sunday School</u>
Communion (MFCC, TX Wesley)	\$ 222.	Children: 10
Building & Grounds	\$ 60.	Adults: 42
Disaster Relief Puerto Rico (UMCOR)	\$ 200.	
Disaster Relief Australia (UMCOR)	\$ 200.	<u>Youth Group</u> 8
Youth Holy Land Trip	\$20,789.	

UpComing: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

BOOKS NEEDED PROJECT TRANSFORMATION LEANDER UMC & FUMC GEORGETOWN

Project Transformation will be coming to our area to help with reading skills . The Leander UMC will host an 8 week summer day camp on their campus for elementary students in the area. They need to create a library with approximately 100 books for elementary aged readers. If you would like to support this program, you may donate books for the library or donate funds to purchase books.

To access our wish list online: www.leanderumc.org/project-transformation

Project Transformation is still searching for a facility that can house 15 interns that would be relatively close to the two site churches: Leander & Georgetown. If you have any ideas please contact Mitchell Lambert:

Mitchell@riotexas.org or 255.610.3773

Just a Sample of the Hundreds of Books on the list at: <https://www.leanderumc.org/>

FEB. 29TH 7:30-9:30 ACTS OF LOVE WINE NIGHT

Acts of Love Early Childhood Education Center, Leander, is sponsoring "Wine Night" at Bent Oak Winery; 2000 Windy Terrace STE 2B, Cedar Park, . Join them for a night of wine, music, & silent auction ..

The cost is \$50 per person and seats are limited . To register and learn more about Acts of Love, please visit: www.actsofloveceec.com

Katie Evans, Director ; 512-528-9948 katie@actschurchleander.com

VALID 1/3-1/31 ONLY DRIVE A SENIOR NORTHWEST TIFF'S TREATS

Drive a Senior Northwest has been selected to participate in a charity competition with Tiff's Treats to celebrate their 21st Anniversary. Help us win by sharing our charity code DRIVE2020 and by placing an order with Tiff's Treats. *Make sure you enter this code at checkout in the charity promotion code box each time you order!* The code will deduct a penny off each order and that's your indication that this sale has been recorded.

Ten percent of our sales using charity code DRIVE2020 throughout the entire month of January will go to Drive a Senior Northwest. The organization with the most sales at the end of January will win \$10,000!

OUR CODE: DRIVE2020 Valid 1/3-1/31 Only

More details on supporting us in this contest can be found on our Drive a Senior Northwest charity webpage.

MONDAYS & FRIDAYS ESL & GED CLASSES COMMUNITY ACTION OF CENTRAL TEXAS

REGISTRATION/ORIENTATION: Fri., Jan. 10th @ 10am (3-hour session) CLASSES BEGIN: Fri, January 24th

Bring: Birth certificate, driver's license, government ID passport

TIDBITS

UMC NEWS AND FEATURES <https://www.umnews.org>



A home in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico, lies in ruins following a series of earthquakes. Hundreds of homes along the island's southern coast were destroyed or severely damaged, leaving many people afraid to sleep indoors. Photo courtesy of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico.

A series of earthquakes in recent weeks has left the people of Puerto Rico in a constant state of unease and distress.

The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico has shared in that unease, but also is responding to the situation through its own disaster response organization and through partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Experience gained from the Hurricane Maria recovery has been an asset in this response, said Glorymar Rivera-Báez, program director for disaster recovery with Rebuilding Communities With Hope (REHACE). Rivera-Báez was in touch with UMCOR's U.S. Disaster Response team immediately after the earthquakes began.

"Although this is a time of great hardship, one positive aspect is that we already had a strong disaster response system in place because of our Hurricane Maria work, plus we have an ongoing relationship with UMCOR," she explained.

"The advice, trainings and financial support they have provided to the people of Puerto Rico will most certainly help us respond to this current situation."

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, more than 500 earthquakes of magnitude 2 or greater have rattled the area since Dec. 28. Of the hundreds of earthquakes, 32 were magnitude 4 and above, including the ones Jan. 6 and 7.

News reports indicate that the Jan. 7 deadly 6.4 magnitude earthquake — the strongest of the series of quakes — left a man dead and injured at least eight others, caused dozens of homes and structures to crumble and cut power and water service to large swaths of the island.

Days later, the island is still struggling. More than 5,000 people are sleeping outside of their homes, with 2,200 of them in government-run shelters and 3,400 sleeping in parks, parking lots and other places. The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico has opened the parking lots of its churches in Ponce and Jayuya to families in need of a place to sleep.

On Jan. 6, the Methodist Church's central office staff and the REHACE disaster case managers, who serve people living in 26 municipalities across the island, were advised to work remotely and travel only if it was safe to do so.

REHACE staff and contractors are still repairing and rebuilding homes damaged by Hurricane Maria in 2017. All work projects eventually were canceled for the week of Jan. 6.

The agency's structural engineers and case managers then started the process of evaluating the structural integrity of the more than 600 homes REHACE has repaired during the past two years. Staff also assessed the condition of camps and host sites where some of the more than 2,500 volunteers from mainland United Methodist congregations have stayed when visiting the island to work on these homes. Early reports indicate minimal to no damage so far.

On Jan. 8, Bishop Hector F. Ortiz, episcopal leader of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico, traveled to Guayanilla — located on the island's southwest coast near the earthquake epicenter — to inspect damaged churches and residences.

He toured the damaged Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Ponce and the Methodist Church of Guayanilla, both of which suffered extensive damage. The stained-glass windows in the Church of the Resurrection in Ponce, previously damaged by Hurricane Maria, had been repaired with hurricane recovery funds.

"Our duty right now is to provide all the support, help and hope we can to our communities," Ortiz said.

UMCOR has awarded a solidarity grant to help with immediate needs. An UMCOR special assessment team will be traveling to the island the week of Jan. 13 to conduct site visits and determine how best to support the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico and REHACE in their response efforts.

The church and REHACE have teamed up with Caribe Girl Scouts Council and members of Puerto Rico Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster on a project to obtain tents and canopies that will be distributed to families affected by the earthquakes.

Meanwhile, the earthquake aftershocks are expected to continue for several more days and keep people on edge.

"The mental stress that these earthquakes are causing, and the tremors that don't seem to ever stop, is amazing," said Gusmary Blanco Mersie, the church's social media director and the mother of two young children.

"Everyone is afraid to sleep because they're worried about a building collapse, babies don't want to be in their rooms because everything moves and kids only feel safe in the park or on the street. The aftermath of this is going to be much bigger than we can imagine."

LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE IS A DREAM MAKER FOR YOUNG STUDENTS

Ruth Moreno shows her brother, Lino, how to keep his hands warm as the sun rises behind them on the Santa Fe Bridge over the Rio Grande in Juárez, Mexico. They make the two-hour cross-border journey each school day to attend the United Methodist Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas.

Please enjoy the pictures with this article at : <https://spark.adobe.com/page/pduEQWFPCb70o/>

Ruth Moreno and her family live in one of the few houses with lights on at 4:30 a.m. Two big dogs are pacing around the small fenced front yard, barking anxiously at any movements on the street.

As the front door opens, the light around Ruth's long, dark hair envelops her like a halo.

Ruth, a high school senior, and her little brother Lino, in 7th grade, are dressed in the navy blue and burgundy uniforms of Lydia Patterson Institute, a United Methodist college-preparatory school in El Paso, Texas. The sleepy kids are getting ready to walk out the door, cross the Rio Grande and travel from their home in Juárez, Mexico, into the U.S. Ruth's mother, Elizabeth Rairez Arredondo, in a gray bathrobe, is washing the breakfast dishes. The Rev. Jose Lino Moreno Garcia, her father, is standing near the table watching his two youngest children as they scurry around getting books, putting on jackets, preparing to walk out the door. This is how every school day begins.

Jose and Elizabeth are happy to send their children out into the pre-dawn darkness because attending Lydia Patterson is a dream for the whole family.

"It is a great school, they teach values from the Bible," Elizabeth says. Their oldest daughter, Raquel, 21, graduated from Lydia Patterson and is now in college and working part time. Ruth explains that Raquel is still asleep — a bit of envy in her voice as she glances at the blanket-covered figure on the couch.

The **hard-packed dirt road** outside their house is faintly lit by occasional streetlights and it is a cold November morning. The routine is for the kids to catch a city bus for a 30-minute bus ride to the entrance of the Santa Fe Bridge. The journey across the pedestrian bridge is not that long in distance but it can take from one to four hours to gain entry into the U.S. The Santa Fe bridge, known as the Paso del Norte Port of Entry on the U.S. side, is the second-busiest pedestrian bridge on the Mexico border.

Most days it is a **two-hour walk**. Ruth makes sure she and Lino leave her house at 5:20 a.m. to get to school in time for her to work in the cafeteria for an hour before classes start.

Juárez at one point was listed as the most violent city in the world because of drug gangs. The city is also dealing with thousands of migrants who are waiting for asylum, a process that has been slowed down by the Trump administration's new Migrant Protection Protocols.

"I am conscious of what is happening around me and that everywhere there is violence but I don't feel any fear because I trust God and He is with me, that I am not alone," Ruth says about her hometown. "Don't misunderstand me, I also know that I need to take my own precautions," she adds.

Ruth **keeps her eyes** on her little brother and knows what is going on around her. Lino is very sleepy. He leans his head against his sister's shoulder and she gently shakes him when it is time to move. He asks her for money to buy some chocolate that will help him stay awake. As they walk, the sun slowly rises and paints everything golden. Once they pass border guards in the U.S., it is a few more blocks to the school.

Ruth uses some of her time in the line studying for a test.

Ruth and Lino have scholarships to attend the private school.

Scholarships are given as available, based on economic need. All of the scholarships are donations — mostly from United Methodist local churches — and the students earn the scholarships by working before and after school. Lydia Patterson is supported by the **South Central Jurisdiction**.

The United Methodist Immigration Task Force was meeting at the school Nov. 21-23. Ruth and Lino were on hand to serve food during the lunches and dinners hosted by the school. They were also both acolytes at the ending worship service at Trinity-First United Methodist Church, El Paso.

Ruth says Lydia Patterson "feels like home." She giggles, adding, "Maybe because I spend so much time there."

She is serious about her education and she feels "it is God's purpose" that she is there.

"Lydia Patterson helps you with your dreams. I feel happy, I want to do everything I need to do," she says. Her parents are always telling her they want a better life for their children than the ones they have.

"I want to give back to my parents because they have given so much to me."

Her days can get long because she is involved in several after-school clubs.

"I'm in lay ministry, which is a group that is in charge of chapel services. I'm in interact club, which does community service, and I'm in student council and newspaper because I love to write," she says.

Her **favorite subjects** are English and math. She wants to go to college to get a degree in elementary education and then go into ministry.

"My **biggest dream** is to become a pastor, to spread the Gospel and the love of God, and to serve other people." She says that her father, a Pentecostal pastor, is her inspiration. "I know that it's my calling."

Outside of school, she works in her church and with the youth and kids' groups. When she has free time, her hobbies are drawing, writing, singing and crafts.

"I try to be busy in God's work; I really love to spend time with my family and friends."

Lydia Patterson Institute has been in existence for more than 100 years. Patterson was a Methodist laywoman who noticed young Hispanic boys in the neighborhood had no school to attend. Seventy percent of the students attending the school are from Juárez, said school president Socorro de Anda.

"We have students who can pay tuition but we also have ones who, if we couldn't help them, they would probably not go beyond sixth grade," de Anda said.

"Ruth is a scholarship student; she has demonstrated she doesn't take this opportunity for granted. She is a hard worker, involved in many student activities, and she stands out because she is one to unashamedly talk about the

opportunity she has been given,” said Ernesto Morales, principal of Lydia Patterson. “We have many students who excel and work hard.”

Morales said many people who aren’t familiar with Lydia Patterson think of it as a good place for students to learn to speak and read English.

“It seems minimal in the idea of what we are doing,” he said. “We have strong academic standards ... our teachers have high expectations. We have 99% go to colleges, universities and 98 to 99% graduate.”

The cost for the school is \$500 a month for 10 months but some scholarships are for \$6,000 to cover the cost of getting a student visa, for traveling back and forth from the bridge and some extra money to allow them to join clubs and be part of activities, Morales said.

De Anda said a big part of the school’s success is the staff.

“The average stay of my staff is about 15 years. I have one who has been there close to 50 years — she graduated from Lydia Patterson, was a math teacher and now is assistant to the principal.”

Another longtime staff member is Fernando Rivera, who found a home at Lydia Patterson 45 years ago and never left.

Rivera, student activities director, came to the school as a student. He said he was almost kicked out “for being a troublemaker,” but the Rev. Harry Kahl, the principal at the time, gave him a second chance. Kahl went on to officiate Rivera’s wedding, baptize his children and served as his sponsor for U.S. citizenship.

“I love him dearly like a son and he calls me his father, since his own father has passed,” Kahl said. He adds that Rivera will be one of the speakers at his funeral. “I’m proud of how he’s developed his kids and raised them in the church.”

“Like me, there’s a lot of students who get one chance to have a better life,” Rivera said. “I can tell you about a lot of persons who want a chance like me who are still over there. The school and The United Methodist Church, they do a good job helping these people.”

Rivera has given back to both the school and the church. His son, a Lydia Patterson graduate, is now an ordained United Methodist pastor in Louisiana.

“When they graduate from Lydia Patterson we want to make sure that they leave with a sense of responsibility not only for themselves but for others,” de Anda said. “You will find even if they don’t go into lay ministry or ordained ministry they are always in some type of ministry. They are always serving — this is what we teach them.”

Lydia Patterson is a safe haven, a sanctuary, says Morales.

“It is difficult to understand how amazing this mission is without seeing it. My challenge is for people to come visit, talk to these students and see what we are about. And I almost guarantee people will want to be part of this ministry.”