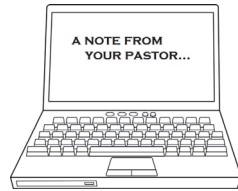


Inside This Issue

The Front Page.....	p. 1
~ Note from Pastor Andy...	
~ December Reminders...	
Worship and Fine Arts	p. 2
~ Daily Scripture...	
~ Note from the Music Minister...	
~ Music & Worship Conference...	
~ Worship Opportunities...	
Stewardship	p. 3
~ Prayers, New Members, Births...	
~ Attendance...	
~ Financial Report...	
~ Event Listing...	
Children Ministries	p. 4
~ Christmas Eve Family Worship...	
~ Wonderfully Made...	
~ Children Ministry Team...	
~ Caring Kids: Making Valentines...	
~ FISH Tween Youth Group...	
Youth Ministries	p. 4
~ Confirmation...	
~ Looking Ahead...	
Adult Ministries.....	p. 5
~ Healthy Habits (Daniel Plan)...	
~ Open Hearts...	
~ Wordspirations...	
~ Disciple Fast Track, Luke & Acts...	
~ GriefShare - Loss of a Spouse ...	
~ GriefShare...	
Adult Ministries, cont.....	p. 6
~ A Woman Overwhelmed...	
~ Short Stories by Jesus...	
~ Want to Join a Book Club?...	
~ Harry Potter Party - Save the date...	
Service and Outreach	p. 6
~ Food Pantry...	
Service and Outreach, cont.....	p. 7
~ Craft Group's Giving Report...	
~ Christmas Eve Offering...	
~ "Caelum" Exhibit by David Loyd...	
~ Kairos Weekend Updates...	
The Back Page	p. 8
~ SOCHAC 5K Run & Kids Dash...	
~ Notewriters Needed...	
~ Church Office Closure Dates...	
~ Newsletter Deadline...	
~ Sunday Worship Opportunities...	
~ Church Contact Info...	



January 2019

I enjoy reading history. I'm particularly fascinated with the history surrounding World War II. I also enjoy learning about the Methodist movement that began in small circles but grew to impact the world with the life changing grace of God! History is such an amazing subject because it captures the movement of time. Consider all the history since the birth of Christ! Consider the rise and fall of numerous nations and the wars that often accompanied such events. Consider the technological advancements in the last 2000 years. Honestly, how did Jesus get by without a smart phone?

It boggles the mind to consider the speed of time and to grasp all that has happened since that first Christmas. For me, it is fascinating and powerful. But not as powerful as what a person can do when they place their 'time' into the hands of Almighty God.

Time is a precious gift, and the time we have on this earth should be valued and honored. We never know how much time we'll have on this earth. Time is more precious than money or gold, which is why it is essential that we be good stewards of the time God has given to us. We can practice good stewardship of our time when we remember the teachings of Jesus Christ. While on this earth He said, "Love your enemies. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Do this in remembrance of me..." If we will only listen and obey, Jesus has given us the New Year's resolutions we need. He has given us guidelines and tools on how to use our time and promises that such obedience will only lead to abundant life.

With the start of another New Year, I hope to remember the value of time, and how I need to focus on the things, the people, and the events that are really important. It's all about placing Christ at the center of life and giving God a greater influence and inspiration over the use of time. Just imagine all the good things that will happen when we use our time to honor and serve the Lord.

Happy New Year and God Bless,

Pastor Andy

Last Minute December Reminders!

Christmas Eve Services, Monday 12/24:

- * 5:00 pm Family Service, Sanctuary, Kim Carroll preaching
- * 7:00 pm Music, Candlelight and Communion, Sanctuary, Pastor Andy preaching
- * 9:00 pm Music, Candlelight and Communion, Sanctuary, Pastor Andy preaching

Combined Single Service, Sunday 12/30:

- * 10:00 am Worship, Sanctuary, NO communion, Rev. Jeanne Devine preaching, NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY!

2019

WORSHIP AND FINE ARTS



Daily Scripture

Week of December 31

Monday	Acts 2:41-47
Tuesday	Matthew 25:31-46
Wednesday	Psalms 72:1-4, 10-14
Thursday	Psalms 72:5-7
Friday	Ephesians 3:1-4
Saturday	Ephesians 3:5-12
<i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	
Sunday	Isaiah 60:1-6
	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14
	Ephesians 3:1-12
	Matthew 2:1-12

Week of January 7

Monday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Tuesday	Isaiah 43:1-7
Wednesday	Psalms 29
Thursday	Acts 8:14-17
Friday	Isaiah 43:1-7
Saturday	Psalms 29
Sunday	Isaiah 43:1-7
	Psalms 29
	Acts 8:14-17
	Luke 5:15-17, 21-22

Week of January 14

Monday	Isaiah 62:1-5
Tuesday	Psalms 36:5-10
Wednesday	Psalms 36:5-10
Thursday	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Friday	John 2:1-11
Saturday	John 2:6-11
Sunday	Psalms 36:5-10
	1 Corinthians 12:1-11
	John 2:1-11

Week of January 21

Monday	Psalms 19:1-4
Tuesday	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Wednesday	Psalms 19
Thursday	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Friday	Luke 4:14-21
Saturday	1 Corinthians 12:17-20
Sunday	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
	Psalms 19
	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
	Luke 4:14-21

Week of January 28

Monday	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Tuesday	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Wednesday	Luke 4:21-30
Thursday	Psalms 71:1-4
Friday	1 Corinthians 13:1-8
Saturday	1 Corinthians 13:9-13
Sunday	Jeremiah 1:4-10
	Psalms 71:1-6
	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
	Luke 4:21-30

A Note
from the
Minister
of Music



Last May Leah and I went to Disneyland and California Adventure in Anaheim California. One of the highlights of the trip was getting to see the "Paint the Night Parade." Seeing all the floats and performers lighting up the dark was amazing. However, one of the things I noticed were the number of glowing necklaces, bracelets, and other adornments worn by the spectators along the parade route. Many children and adults wore items which glowed blue, yellow, green, red, or orange. Once the lights went out, you might not be able to see the features of the person, but you could sure see the glow from whatever they were wearing. That got me thinking. In order to make a glowing item work, you have to do something to make the chemicals inside to mix so they will combine to form a reaction, which makes it glow. Usually you have to bend it or break the inner seal to get the chemicals to combine. So, while the glow stick is fine just as it is, once it's bent or broken, it illuminates. In order to fulfill its purpose, it has to be broken. One of my favorite stories is about two water pots which were used to carry water from a stream to a master's house. One pot was perfect while the other pot had a small crack in it which kept it from being completely filled when it reached the house. After many trips, the cracked water pot felt inadequate to the perfect water pot since it never had a full supply at the end of the journey. The water bearer explained to the pot that even with its crack it was extremely useful. You see, the water bearer planted seeds along the side of the path. As they made the trip home, the water that leaked from the cracked pot would spill down on the scattered seed and give them nourishment. After many trips, beautiful plants grew along the path. There are times when we feel like the cracked water pot - inadequate, incomplete, or flawed. However, God can still use us to nourish, inspire, and serve others. It doesn't matter if you've been divorced, unemployed, suffering from a disease/illness; God sees value in you. If the water pot wasn't cracked, the plants along the path wouldn't have grown. If you don't bend/break the glow stick, it won't light up the night. God doesn't see us as broken, inadequate or flawed. God values us for who we are and what we might become. As Gloria Gather writes "...all I had to offer him was brokenness and strife, but he made something beautiful of my life."

— Mark Hixon, Director of Music and Fine Arts

Music and Worship Conference, Jan. 25-27

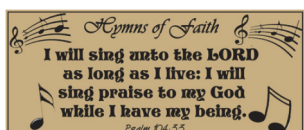
Do you have an interest in choral music, handbell music, children's music or worship? The Rio Texas Chapter of The Fellowship of United Methodist in Music and Worship Arts is sponsoring a Music and Worship Conference January 25-27 at Dripping Springs United Methodist Church. This is an opportunity for people of who love church music, not just members of the choir, to work with well-known clinicians in rehearsal. There are also Break Out sessions that include music reading sessions as well as sessions that help to improve musicianship and spiritual growth. This year's clinicians are Mary McDonald (Adult Choral), Linda Smith (Handbells) and Karen Andrews (Children/Youth). Registration for the conference is \$60 for adults, \$35 for children/youth. For more information check out the conference website (www.riotexas.org) and look under conference events.

Worship Opportunities

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday
Traditional Services
Sanctuary
Rev. Andy Smith preaching

9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School
for all ages
Various Classrooms

11:00 a.m. Sunday
Life on the Road
Family Life Center
Contemporary Worship



STEWARDSHIP

We Pray for...

Sam Arhelger	Laura McFall
Rick Barker	Chris & Allen McKean
Hannah Butler	Bobbye Meador
Tina Carter	Dick Meyer
Betty Chase	Maxine Monteith
June Cook	Mark Monteith
Kristine Ehrlich	Charlotte Morahan
Edna Esparza	Tish Moulton
David Fegan	Dorma Nickels
Imogene Gray	Pat Nixon-Gunn
Wendell Hallmark	Gary Oliverius
Tena Hammond	Alan Owens
Robin Hansen	Rev. Mimi Raper
Lee Herring	Rich Roth
Susan Hilburn	Mary Rush
Charlotte Holley	Adrienne Thel
Angel Jackson	Dean Thompson
Norma Jacobson	Rita Thompson
Forest & M'Liss Jordan	Robert Todd
James Kennedy	Jerry Weaver
Jackie Kerr	B. A. Wilcoxson
Athena McBride	Bobbye Word
Ethan BcBride	Chuck Zaloga

Names are removed from prayer list each month unless otherwise requested.



We Welcome New Members...



JoAnn Buchtel
Angela MacDiarmid
Debbie & Eric Martinez

Congratulations to...



Lisa & Mike Niswander, big sister Guinevere, on the birth of **Huxley James Niswander**, on October 2, 2018.

Laurie & Paul Halweg, big sister Lucy, grand-parents Sondra & Richard Halweg, on the birth of **Abigail Grace Halweg**, on November 2, 2018.

Emily & David Repp, big brother Logan, big sister Lilly, on the birth of **Elizabeth "Lizzy" Dawn Repp**, on November 6, 2018.

Attendance

Sunday 11-18-18	260
Sunday School	138
Visitors	24
First time visitors	5
Sunday 11-25-18	269
Sunday School	140
Visitors	26
First time visitors	0
Sunday 12-2-18	277
Sunday School	145
Visitors	29
First time visitors	4
Sunday 12-9-18	337
Sunday School	162
Visitors	34
First time visitors	3

Financial Report



NOVEMBER

Operating Income	\$ 55,075.72
Operating Expenses	\$ 55,416.69
Net Op. Loss	\$ (340.97)

YTD (November)

Operating Income	\$ 721,217.96
Operating Expenses	\$ 731,109.45
Net Op. Loss	\$ (9,891.49)

Nov Special Offering Rec'd

Food Pantry	\$ 400.00
Build-Serve-Grow	\$ 4,595.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 1,370.00
Missions	\$ 95.00
Alter Rail Offerings	\$ 150.00
Memorials	\$ 225.00

The Church's financial reports are available for review, by any Church member, in the Church's office, during normal working hours. Please contact Dick for assistance and to make an appointment.

Coming Events

Church Office Closed	Tues, Jan 1
Open Hearts -7 pm	Tues, Jan 8
Tween Ministry FISH -6:30 pm	Wed, Jan 9
Daytime Bunko -1 pm	Thurs, Jan 10
Wonderfully Made	Thurs-Sat, Jan 10-12
Women of the Word -9:30 am	Fri, Jan 11
Stephen Ministry Training -6 pm	Fri, Jan 11
Stephen Ministry Training -8:30 am	Sat, Jan 12
Pastor's Coffee -9:45 am	Sun, Jan 13
Craft Group Luncheon/Meeting -11 am	Sun, Jan 13
Confirmation Orientation -noon	Sun, Jan 13
GriefShare-Loss of a Spouse -1:30 pm	Sun, Jan 13
Stitches from the Heart -10 am	Mon, Jan 14
Staff Meeting -1 pm	Mon, Jan 14
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE -noon	Tues, Jan 15
Stephen Ministry Training -5 pm	Sun, Jan 20
Church Office Closed	Mon, Jan 21
FLAMS -9 am	Wed, Jan 23
Daytime Bunko -1 pm	Thurs, Jan 24
Women of the Word -9:30 am	Fri, Jan 25
Caring Kids: Valentines -10 am	Sat, Jan 26
Confirmation Classes Begin	Sun, Jan 27
Stephen Ministry Training -5 pm	Sun, Jan 27
Stitches from the Heart -6 pm	Mon, Jan 28
CDC Staff Meeting -6:30 pm	Mon, Jan 28
FISH Mission Project-6:30 pm	Wed, Jan 30

Adult Class Schedule

Daniel Plan Study -2:30 pm (starts 1/6)	Sun
Wordspirations -4 pm (starts 1/13)	Sun
GriefShare -1:30 pm (starts 1/20)	Sun
Fast Track Disciple 2 -7 pm (starts 1/15)	Tues
A Woman Overwhelmed -9:30 am (starts 1/23)	Wed

Weekly Opportunities

Worship - Sanctuary -8:30 am	Sun
Sunday School -9:45 am	Sun
Worship - Sanctuary -11 am	Sun
Worship - Family Life Center -11 am	Sun
Youth Choir -2 pm	Sun
UMYF -3 pm	Sun
Children's Choirs -4:30 pm	Sun
AA -7:30 pm	Mon
Boomer Exercise -9/10 am	Tue/Thur
Craft Group -7 pm	Tue
Craft Group -9 am	Wed
Men's Group -12 noon	Wed
Such as These Praise Band -6:30 pm	Wed
Sanctuary Choir -6:45 pm	Wed
Glory Bells -7 pm	Thurs

CHILDREN MINISTRIES

Christmas Eve Worship Celebration for Families

5:00 PM, Christmas Eve, Sanctuary

Families with children all ages are invited to join us in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior! This worship service features the children's nativity pageant where all children in attendance are invited to participate. We'll also celebrate with carols and songs led by the GOD-SPRING Youth Choir. We end the evening by sharing the light of the Christ with child-friendly glow sticks during a singing of Silent Night.



Wonderfully Made, Loved by God

Faith and Sexuality Workshop for 5th and 6th Grade Students



If you are interested in your child attending this workshop, please contact Kim at Kim@ManchacaUMC.org or visit our website to find out more information!

Join the Children's Ministry Team

Would you like to help plan the programs, activities and events that support the faith development of our young disciples? The Children's Ministry Team always welcomes newbies! We meet 4-5 times a year, usually sharing a meal together right after the 11 am service. If you'd like to join our team, please email the CMT Chair, Leslie Piggott, at littleleslie_mc@hotmail.com.



Caring Kids: Making Valentines

Saturday, January 26, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Caring Kids invites families to serve Christ together through various mission projects throughout the year. This month we'll be making Valentines to share God's love with those who may need reminders the most: troops serving overseas, Stephen Ministry care-receivers, and children in a local hospital. We need to make LOTS of cards, so please plan to come! Sign up at www.ManchacaUMC.org/caring-kids or on the clipboards at church.



FISH Tween Group

F.I.S.H. is a place where fourth and fifth grade students gather to form a community of support, play lots of fun games and learn about how the Bible applies to their lives. They meet on the 2nd Wednesday each month from 6:30-7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall, and also periodically for mission projects. At our January gathering on Wed. Jan. 9, we'll be discussing prejudices and stereotypes. For our mission project on Jan. 30, we'll write letters to refugees. Find our full schedule online at www.ManchacaUMC.org/fish



YOUTH MINISTRIES

2019 Confirmation Information

- Sun. January 13 – Confirmation Orientation after church (lunch provided)
- Confirmation Classes begin on Sunday afternoon, January 27 (exact time TBD)
- Confirmation Sunday: May 19



If you did not register for confirmation, but would like to join the classes, please contact Kim at Kim@ManchacaUMC.org ASAP! Confirmation is open to all 6th grade students, and Middle School students who have not been confirmed.

Looking Ahead...

- Mid-Winter 2019 - Stay Tuned! Date TBD!
- High School Mission Trip 2019 to Marvell, AR, June 30 - July 6. Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044aadad2fa13-high2>
- Middle School Mission Trip 2019 to San Angelo, TX, July 14 - 18. Sign up coming soon!



ADULT MINISTRIES

Healthy Habits for a New Year!

6-week Daniel Plan study
Begins Sunday, January 6, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Start your new year by establishing healthy habits in every area of your life: faith, food, fitness, focus and friends!

The Daniel Plan will equip you with practical tools and resources to incorporate healthy choices into your current lifestyle. While the Daniel Plan offers some diet suggestions, you can follow any healthy eating plan, and still gain help from this program. The class is free! A limited number of optional Daniel Plan books and cookbooks are available at a discounted price.



Wordspirations: Weekly Experiential Reflections on God's Word

Sundays, 4-6 pm, January 13- April 7
No Cost, No Homework
Led by Ellen Carpenter and Team



Do you wish for a more personal and real connection with God? Have you ever felt that God seems distant and not very involved in what really matters to you, or said, "I would love to be closer to God but I'm just not sure how to do it"? Well, welcome to Wordspirations - the Women's Bible Study where we learn and practice together how to hear from God and have a more intimate relationship with Jesus. We come together each week with the Bible as our text and the Holy Spirit our Teacher and give you the chance to actually experience hearing from God as He speaks to you personally through His Word, and meets you right where you need Him. And we make new friends and get to know each other, as well. You are invited to take this chance to refresh, deepen and even transform your relationship with God. No homework! And we always have snacks. Please join us. It can happen for you. Group led by Ellen Carpenter, licensed counselor and certified life coach, and co-facilitated by Team~Sharon Mize, Julie Chandler and Debi Jones.

OPEN HEARTS

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 7 PM Rm. 8 Main Bldg.



[A laity support group for parents, friends, family, and allies of LGBTQ persons]

We hope all of you had a joyful holiday. Our extended family was missing a much-loved member from the celebrations. 18 is too young to die. Did you know LGB youth are 5X more likely to commit suicide. Males are 4X more likely than females. If their family rejects them, that risk rises to 8X's. It's not something we want to think about, but these are our families and friends. Is it talked about? No. We talk about the "homeless" among us, but are you aware that LGBTQ youth make up 40% of the homeless youth?especially in large cities. That's why we will be discussing suicide and homelessness among LGBTQ youth at our January meeting. SUPPORT is centered on education. For more information, call Loretta [mother of a gay son] 281-615-6149 [cell] or Kim 512-282-7274 [at the church]. We gather the first Tuesday of each month to share. Due to New Year's Day, we are meeting the second Tuesday in January.

Disciple Fast Track 2: Into the Word, Into the World

12-week Bible study on Luke and Acts
Tuesday Evenings, 7-8 pm, Begins Jan. 15
Led by Pastor Andy, Cost: \$15



Disciple Fast Track Bible studies are designed for busy people who want in-depth Bible study. This study immerses you in the books of Luke and Acts to deepen your understanding of Scripture and make new connections. Traditionally, the books of Luke and Acts are attributed to the same author, a physician by the name of Luke, who was a companion of the apostle Paul. Together they detail the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, as well as the birth and movement of the early church. The cost of the class is \$15 for the study manual.

Grieving the death of a spouse?

Or do you know someone who is?

Please join us for this 2 hour seminar
Sunday, January 13, 2019 1:30-3:30 pm
Manchaca United Methodist Church

Email David at lnad079@gmail.com
for more information

Your life has changed forever. The daily emotions and challenges can seem too hard to bear.

Find help at a Loss of a Spouse seminar.

GriefShare

Sundays, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, January 20 - April 14
\$15 for workbook



Do you need help and encouragement after the death of a loved one? GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to give you the help and encouragement that you need. We know it hurts, and we want to help. Because the group facilitators have experienced grief and have been through the GriefShare classes themselves, they are able to provide encouragement and compassion throughout the 13 weekly meetings. You may begin GriefShare at any time during the cycle. You need not be a member of MUMC, so please pass this on to anyone who may need help. Contact Deanna at 512-917-1909 for more information.

ADULT MINISTRIES

A Woman Overwhelmed

6-week Wed. Morning Women's Bible study
Begins January 23, 9:30 – 11 am
Cost: \$12 for the participant book



Replace frustration, fatigue and stress with peace, hope, love and joy by learning to be overwhelmed with God and not with the demands of everyday life. Author Hayley DiMarco offers personal stories and biblical strategies for addressing worry, uncertainty, and isolation, and encourages us to discover the depths and heights of God's love and power by recognizing the spiritual beauty that surrounds life's messes.

Want to Join a Book Club?

Kim Carroll will be hosting a book club meeting at her house on Thursday evening, February 28,

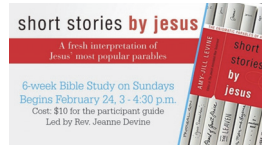


from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. We'll share dessert and discuss the book "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again" by Rachel Held Evans. If the group decides they'd like to

continue with a book club (meeting once a month – or every other month), the group will decide on the next host and book at the first meeting. Please plan to purchase the book on your own (available at any bookstore or Amazon) and arrange your own childcare if needed. Kim's address will be shared with those who sign up. The book club is limited to 12 people.

Short Stories by Jesus

6-week Bible study on Sunday Afternoons
Begins on Sunday, Feb. 24 (skips March 31)
3 – 4:30 pm, Cost: \$10
Led by Rev. Jeanne Devine



Jesus knew how to tell a story. He knew that in order to get his message across he needed to relate to the people who gathered to listen—first century Jews—who lived in a very different world than the one in which we live today. In Short Stories by Jesus, author Amy-Jill Levine takes you back in time and explains how original audiences understood Jesus' parables. You'll learn how new interpretations of the parables continue to challenge and provoke contemporary readers two thousand years later. Amy-Jill Levine is Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, TN. Rev. Jeanne Devine is a retired United Methodist pastor in Austin, TX.



SERVICE AND OUTREACH

The Food Pantry shelves are “bursting at the seams!” Such a wonderful sight!

November was a busy month for the Food Pantry. We started the month with the Tweens, Abby Piggot, Harper Barry, Anna Smith and Rachel Smith with mom Monica, Ivy Geerts and mom Deb Zippe, Nick Rhinehart with parents Spencer and Jenny, Sara Dunlap and mom Susana, Wanda Summers and her friend Terri Modgling, Colton, Jackson and Beau LeBlanc with parents Melissa and Josh, sack ALL the Holiday Bags we gave out during November and December. Every person who came to the office asking for food received a Holiday Bag along with a regular bag. Also, 14 Holiday Bags were given to Menchaca Elementary at Christmas. Each of these bags had a HEB gift card enabling the family to buy a turkey.

We would say **Thank You** to the people who had food drives for us -- Emma Maldonado from Allred's Salon and the MUMC Children's Sunday School. For the first time, Hays National Honor Society and Kiker Elementary also had drives for us. We feel very blessed for their work.

In addition to all the food, members opened up their wallets! What a generous church. Because of all of you, we can fill Menchaca backpacks, Akins Homeless weekend bags and the Blessing Box shelves. Thank you from all the hungry people and school children we feed all year long.



SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Craft Group's Year End Giving Report

Financial donations or services to the church:

- Payment for Craft Room utilities
- Choir conference/Cantata
- Stephen Ministers support and new stoles
- Grief Share
- Kairos
- Confirmand's Bibles
- Third Grade Bibles
- Office supplies
- Donations to Memorials
- VBS
- Custodian's shirts
- Hospitality supplies
- College Care packages
- Youth Shares
- Table covers for Sunshine Café
- Aprons for Congregational Life
- Care Corp visitor gifts
- Manna bags
- Alex' Lemonade Stand
- Support for 2 Eagle Scouts from our church
- Appreciation gift cards for staff
- Shades for Fellowship Hall
- Christmas Eve Food for staff

Financial donations or services to the community:

- Salvation Army
- Meals on Wheels
- Brown Santa
- Safe Place
- Montopolis Friendship Center
- Akins Homeless
- Coats for Kids
- Eldercare Fans
- Veteran's Administration Austin Outpatient Clinic



The Craft Group thanks you for your support. Through your purchases we are able to give back to the church and the community.

Christmas Eve Offering

No Room at the Inn



Our Christmas Eve offering is again dedicated to the Habitat for Humanity Methodist Build. Remember this is NOT a handout; it is a hand up. The family has to meet rigorous qualifications and repays the money to Habitat with a 0% 30-year mortgage. They build it, earn it and pay for it! But not without you! Your generosity during this special Christmas Eve offering will enable another deserving family to realize their dream of home ownership. If you cannot be at the Christmas Eve Service this year, please consider making a donation during a different service. Mark all donations with "No Room at the Inn" or "Habitat." For more info about the Methodist Build, see the Dec. newsletter or look on the Mission Team's bulletin board.

"Caelum" Exhibit by David Loyd

"Caelum" [ki'-lum] is a Latin word which can refer to the sky, the heavens, or the atmosphere. In astronomy, "caelum" [si'-lum] refers to a faint constellation in the Southern Hemisphere. Artist David Loyd has a connection to the sky and atmospheric conditions and uses that connection in many of his paintings. Several of David's paintings are on exhibit in the main building in the hallway by the Sanctuary. Some of the artwork is available for purchase by contacting David. **Half of the sales price for a painting will be donated to SAFE Alliance.** The exhibit will be displayed through mid-January.

Kairos Weekend Updates

Luther #5, Lockhart #23



Thank You! Your gifts of prayer, cookies, posters and money helped to bring Christ's kingdom to many women and men in prison this past October. Together, we brought God's love, forgiveness, and new life to a very, very dark place. The Holy Spirit tore down walls that had been built around broken hearts and breathed new life into damaged souls. Here are comments from inmates describing their experience.

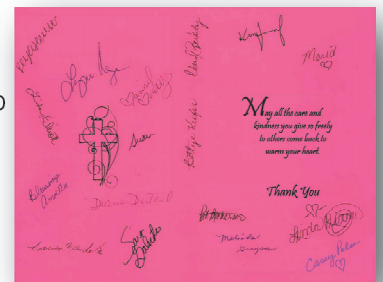
How they came: Some came with a big ugly mask on. Some were nervous and felt unworthy. Some had been starving for love. There were even some who were angry at God.

What they found: Love and forgiveness and who they really were in the eyes of God. It was such a freeing experience. They found the power of prayer, a new beginning, and a reason to keep going.

One woman who was imprisoned at the age of 18, and four months pregnant, was one of the women who were angry and had shut God out of her life. She had been denied parole. This was not how her life was supposed to be. By the end of the weekend she realized that God had kept her away from her daughter because He did not want her daughter to meet the woman she had been. She was now looking forward to holding her daughter as a new person loved by God and able to share God's love with her daughter.

Your gifts are appreciated by the Kairos teams and especially by the inmates! Over the course of the three days, the inmates began to realize that the Body of Christ is a very real thing, not just some theological imagery. Your gifts of love are the instruments that God uses to open their eyes to that reality. Your gifts are truly fruit from the Holy Spirit.

If you would like more information or to volunteer for either a men's or women's Kairos Ministry Weekend next April 2019 contact Ron at mizeron@earthlink.net or Sharon at petunia54@earthlink.net. God Bless You.



SOCHAC 5K Run & Kids Dash

Our annual 5K Run and Kids Dash is fast approaching! The race looks a little different this year - it has been re-named, re-imaged, and sports an 80s theme. We have a new fast and flat race route that starts and finishes at our church and will include Lowden Lane. We have also added a few more age brackets AND teams this year! We will have family friendly activities at the church pavilion after the race and awards ceremony. Our goal is to register 200 runners and pack at least 200 Manna Bags during the Kids Dash.

This event is our church's biggest fundraiser in support of three South Austin Schools – Menchaca Elementary, Paredes Middle School, and Akins High School. You can help serve these schools by signing up as a participant, being a financial sponsor (as an individual or through your own business), or volunteering along the way. We need everyone's help for the race to be a success!

- ◆ **Saturday, February 23, 2019**
- ◆ **The 5K starts at 8:00 a.m.**
- ◆ **The Kids Dash starts at 9:00 a.m.**

Please visit our race website for more information and to sign up:

tinyurl.com/2019sochac.

Questions? Contact Jena Abel,

SoChac5K@gmail.com.



Notewriters Needed

Giving from the Heart can be measured in many ways, not only as what we give monetarily, but what we can do in service for Our Lord.



Knowing what it means to have our congregation pray for my family during a time of concern has been truly a blessing. Receiving a special card from a loving member meant the world to us.

This endearing ministry of Notewriters is seeking and calling for more caring individuals to become a part of our group. The message we impart is to continue to pray every day for those on our prayers and concerns list, but for us we go a little further by writing a caring note of love to those on that list one or two months out of the year.

Please pray about this and consider the Joy, inspiration and closeness to God that you can provide to others and yourself through this devoted service.

Contact Nancy Zaloga @ 512-970-6130 or nanbill@gmail.com if this heartwarming ministry touches you.

**The Church Office will be closed
Monday, December 24 - Wednesday, December 26th
& Tuesday, January 1**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at **NOON**

Email submissions to:

deanna@manchacaumc.org or
office@manchacaumc.com

NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE MAILED

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Sunday Worship and Sunday School Schedule:

8:30-9:30 a.m.- Traditional Worship w/Communion
in the Sanctuary

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.- Sunday School for all ages

11 a.m. - 12 noon- Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

11 a.m. - 12 noon- Praise Worship in the Family Life Center

Contact Information:

Rev. Andy Smith, Sr. Pastor

Office: 512-282-7274 FAX: 512-282-7508

email: office@ManchacaUMC.org

web address: <http://www.manchacaumc.org/>

Child Development Center: 512-280-2552



MANCHACA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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