

Northern Hills Network

Oct-Dec 2019

Family Trait

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

We had the wonderful opportunity to do a quick trip to Monterrey to visit my mom. She has gone through a lot of challenges and changes in the last two months, so we wanted to surprise her with the grandkids and cheer her spirit. When she saw my kids walking to her room, her face changed! She was happy and moved to tears of joy!

While looking at her and listening to her way of dealing with struggles, I noticed that in the midst of the distance, there is a characteristic that has not changed at all; she is a prayer warrior. That is a characteristic that I also see in my daughter, Elizabeth. In other words, it is like a “spiritual family trait.”

As we have physical characteristics that are similar, I see also emotional and even spiritual characteristics that we can inherit. Prayer is one that I treasure.

So, what is the family trait that we want to inherit as Northern Hills United Methodist Church? What have we received from our past that empowers our present and encourages for our future? How do we want to be relevant, and how do we want to make an impact?

There are 2 family characteristics in NHUMC that I can see God using to empower us:

Internally – we are willing to risk to reach different ways of learning and experiencing our growth in Christ. We have diverse worship services, and diverse locations, diverse languages, diverse times, diverse styles of gathering to worship and preach. We provide different opportunities to learn the word of God and gather to learn. Due to that, we are intentional in focusing leadership to help us to strengthen our growth, “from the inside out”, to explore ways to maintain good characteristics, and explore new ways to grow.



Externally – as our mission statement says, “Reach, Teach, and Love,” many of our action points are outward focus. We are the church who wants to belong “inside and outside.” To see our neighbors, schools, apartment complexes, Day School families, and the world as part of our life, is not a foreign concept. We believe it, and we act on it through and by the power of God’s grace. Because of this desire, we are intentional also to focus leadership to keep us accountable to be relevant to our neighbor, as far and as unique as God calls us to do it.

So how do we “jump in?” See the answer inside under NHUMC ACTION program.

Bendiciones de Dios,
Pastor Lupina

NHUMC IN ACTION

So how do we “jump in?”

I want to invite you to be intentional in these actions during the next months:

Prayer – We want to maintain the Lord as the leader, guide, and way to follow in this season. We do not want to get distracted with things that take us away from His will, but to move toward His plan.

Support as a member – Prayers, presence, gifts, witness, and service are the ways that we support each other to maintain ourselves healthy as a congregation.

Learn and get involved in our NHUMC ACTION program – The way to describe it is: “The purpose of this program is precisely facilitate the process of assimilation to every person that comes to this congregation. This process will help a person in his or her own “speed” to grow and explore the way our congregation functions, places where he/she can serve, tools that will help him/her to learn more about himself/herself, and experiences in his/her own lives than can be used to serve in the Body of Christ.”

Regardless if you have been a member for the entire life of this church or if you just came to visit for the first time last week, this program will welcome and encourage you to participate.

This program is divided in 3 main categories:

A = Ask & Acquire Stage (1.5 hour class)

Audience and Purpose: Any person at NHUMC, whether member or visitor, that wants to become knowledgeable about the church and the United Methodist denomination.

Content: A look back: United Methodism

NHUMC: Yesterday and Today

Everything you need to know about NHUMC

The Church in ACTION

C = Connection & Commitment Stage (1.5 hour class)

Audience: Any person at NHUMC, whether member or visitor, that desires an understanding of his/her spiritual gifts and how those gifts connect to NHUMC’s mission.

Purpose: To help participants understand and connect their spiritual gifts to the mission of NHUMC so that they can determine where they can effectively serve the church.

Content: How God designed you

Connecting YOU and NHUMC

T = Try & Thrive Stage (“Hands on” practice)

Audience: Any person at NHUMC, whether member or visitor, that is ready to begin serving in his/her selected ministry.

Purpose: Assimilate into chosen ministry.

At this stage, the person is independently seeking information on the places he or she wishes to serve.

Each area will have its own “leader path” to integrate the person successfully into the area of service. The path is clearly defined and documented by the leader of the committee or ministry.

May we all grow together as the NHUMC family. May we all keep family traits that bring hope to the world and are “Kingdom of God” relevant. May we IMPACT our neighbors and our Nation so that people will proclaim “Jesus as our Lord.”

“May they know that we are Christians by our love...”

Pastor Lupina



CALENDAR

October

- 2 ESL begins at Steubing Ranch and Stahl Elementary Schools
- 3 ESL begins at NHUMC
- 5 UMW Fun, Food & Follies, 2:00 p.m.
- 6 World Communion Sunday
- 8 Circle of Love, noon—2:00 p.m., B1
Hope Circle, 6:00—7:00 p.m., B2
- 11 Mid High Retreat (through 13)
- 13 UMM Brisket Plate Sale, 10:00 a.m.—noon
- 15 Birthday Card Ministry, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Faith Circle, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. B1
- 25 UMM Men's Retreat (through 27), Lazy River Retreat & Conference Center, Ingram, TX
- 27 Trunk or Treat, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

December

- 7 Breakfast with Santa
- 8 Giving Tree gifts due
- 10 Network Folders, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Circle of Love, noon—2:00 p.m., B1
- 11 Children's Christmas Program, 6:15 p.m., Sanctuary
- 14 Posada, 5:00-7:00 p.m., at the Ministry Center
- 17 Birthday card ministry, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Faith Circle, 10:00 a.m.—noon, B1
- 24 Church office closed
Christmas Eve Worship Services listed on back page
- 25 Church office closed (through January 6)

November

- 3 Daylight Savings Time ends
Church in Action Fair
- 8 Parent's Night Out, 6:30—9:30 p.m.
Bunco, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 UMM Golf Tournament, 8:00 a.m.,
Northern Hills Golf Course
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 Hope Circle, 6:00—7:00 p.m., B2
- 17 Giving Tree up
- 19 Birthday Card Ministry, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Circle of Love & Faith Circle Luncheon
- 19 Newsletter/Program Guide deadline (January-March)
- 24 Campus Christmas decorating
- 27 Church office closes at noon
- 28 Thanksgiving Day/Church office closed
- 29 Church office closed

Attendance

These figures include Wednesday and Sunday worship services.

JUNE:	JULY:	AUGUST:
6/2: 839	7/7: 763	8/4: 888
6/9: 735	7/14: 737	8/11: 853
6/16: 807	7/21: 837	8/18: 899
6/23: 844	7/28: 885	8/25: 763
6/30: 1060		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moving On Group

The Moving On Group is a Christian fellowship group for widows and widowers. We meet monthly for food and fellowship. We'd love for you to join us! Contact Maxine at 210.451.9162 or maxinewebber@att.net.

October: Olive Garden
November: La Hacienda
December: Chilis

Rambunctious Retirees

We meet every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. for lunch followed by Mexican Train Dominos in the Wesley Annex.

Fun • Food • Follies

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2:00 P.M.

Hosted by the UMW

Tickets will be available Sunday, September 22 and Sunday, September 29 in Gathering Area

MINISTRIES & MORE

United Methodist Men (UMM)

Do you want to meet other men in the church? Join the United Methodist Men at our monthly meetings at Longhorn Café on Nacogdoches Road. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., to eat, laugh, share, and talk a little business of our activities. We would love to have you join us soon. For more information, contact Neil Finley, 210-669-1132.

UMM Brisket Sale is coming!

Along with cooler winds to come, so will the smell of smoke and the undeniable smell of brisket on the pit. The UMM will be once again selling Brisket plates to go, on Sunday, October 13. The plates will consist of tender slices of brisket, beans, and tasty potato salad. Quantities will be limited, so come early to get yours. Proceeds go toward support of NHUMC Youth.

NHUMC Golf Tournament

If the hot weather has cramped your golf game, we have a date for you. On Saturday, November 9, the UMM will be hosting the NHUMC Golf Tournament at Northern Hills Golf Course. With your registration, you get the round of golf, shared cart, and lunch. Top that with the fun and fellowship of a great day on the links and open to all. Save the date of November 9, shotgun start at 8:00 a.m.

NORTHERN HILLS MEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 25-27

LAZY HILLS RETREAT AND
CONFERENCE CENTER
INGRAM, TX

PICK UP YOUR REGISTRATION FORM IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

All men are invited to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, inspirational speakers, and encouragement through faith. Scholarships are available for those in need. Contact Neil Finley at, neilfinley42@gmail.com for more information.

United Methodist Women (UMW)



Parents Night Out
November 8
5:30-9:30 p.m.
\$10 child or \$25 family
RSVP by November 5th to Children@nhumc.org
or sign up on line at: www.nhumc.org

The poster features silhouettes of a woman with a hula hoop, a child, a man, and a child on a bicycle against a colorful background of flowers and a sunset.

November 8 —BUNCO—This dice game is lots of fun and a delightful way to mingle with church friends. Potluck starts at 6:30 p.m. followed by play from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Wesley Annex. The \$5 donation benefits a different mission each quarter.

Circle Meetings:

LOVE (2nd Tuesday, noon, B1)

Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

Focus: Bible study, making lap quilts, etc.

Contact: Diana Poerner

teapott53@aol.com

FAITH (3rd Tuesday, 10:00 a.m., B1)

Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17

Focus: Bible study, lap quilts, etc.

Contact: Sue Bohlen & Alvina Mitchell

AlvinaKayMitchell@gmail.com

HOPE (2nd Tuesday, 6:00 p.m., B3)

Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

Contact: Angela Sparks

angelakaysparks@yahoo.com

MINISTRIES & MORE

Church in ACTION Ministry Fair

We're excited to let you know that Northern Hills is hosting a Church in ACTION Ministry Fair on Sunday, November 3rd, 9:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. The name Church in ACTION is a reference to how vibrant and active our church is. The purpose of the Fair is to tell you about all our ministries and to help you find a place to plug in. Each of our ministries will be sharing information about who they are and what they do. Free food and drinks will be provided throughout the event. So we invite you to come on out, linger around the church grounds before and after your church service, learn about all the ministries our church offers, enjoy some breakfast or lunch, and get to know some of your church family a little better. We look forward to seeing you all there!



**Church in
ACTION Fair**

**Sunday
November 3, 2019
9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**NHUMC
IN
ACTION**

Stewardship

Change is the new normal at Northern Hills. With new pastors, new ministries, new directors, and new visions, it is exciting to be a part of God's plan.

We have come through the summer with more giving to the church than in 2018, and are in good financial health. Our giving by electronic means, Give Plus, is now at \$10,000/month, and growing. Your support to all causes is inspiring.

The church still has challenges. We have constant maintenance on both campuses. This summer we refurbished the HVAC. The building was struck by lightning. August is the lowest month of giving, because of vacations and travel. In addition, our attendance is at its lowest at this time of year. We need to rededicate to our vows of "prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness." Come get involved in Radical Hospitality, new Children and Youth Ministry, W.O.W. (Worship on Wednesday), and all of the programs at the Ministry Center.

How are you involved in "Reach, Teach, Love?" Your tithe and gifts, especially to the general fund of the church, are critical to our mission. Please continue to be generous, and God will be glorified.

REACH

OTHERS FOR JESUS

TEACH

THE WAYS OF JESUS

LOVE

THE WORLD FOR
WHICH JESUS DIED

MINISTRY CENTER

*And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God.
Hebrews 13:16*

We had another great summer at the Ministry Center!

We completed our third year of hosting Project Transformation Summer Camp and were blessed to have an average daily attendance of 65 children. These children enjoyed fun activities and unique learning experiences while practicing their reading skills each day with a reading mentor.

The Lord also opened a new door for us to serve this summer. We were invited to provide a new children's bible study at the LC Rutledge Apartments. This wonderful opportunity allowed us to share the Word of God with the children of this apartment complex every Tuesday afternoon. We have now been asked to extend the program into the fall, and we will be adding a homework help component soon.

As the Lord opens doors of opportunity for us serve, it is a confirmation that God wants us to continue reaching out into the community. Our church is making an IMPACT in the lives of the people in our community. The programs and services that we offer are possible because of the committed volunteers and supporters of the Ministry Center.

We have numerous service opportunities at the Ministry Center. If you are interested in serving or participating in one of our ministries, please call the Ministry Center office at 210.236.6810, visit the website at www.NHUMC.org or email us at MinistryCenter@nhumc.org.

Blessings,

Pastor Abdon



MINISTRY CENTER

Programs and Services at the Ministry Center

Mondays

NEISD ESL Classes and GED Classes, 8:30–11:00 a.m.
Monday Morning Mom's Bible Study, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Special Needs Adults Activities and Games, 9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
Zumba Class, 11:00 a.m.–noon
Methodist Healthcare Parenting Class, noon–2:00 p.m.
Homework Help @ Avistar at the Oaks Apartments, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Project Transformation After-School Program, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Ecumenical Center Counseling, 3:00 p.m. (by appointment only)
English as a Second Language Classes, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Tuesdays

NEISD ESL Classes and GED Classes, 8:30–11:00 a.m.
Special Needs Adults Music and Life Skills Activities, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Connection Hospitality Ministry, 3:00-5:30 p.m.
Project Transformation After-School Program, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Bible Study/Homework Help at LC Rutledge Apartments, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Guitar Classes, 6:30-7:30 p.m., (September 10-October 29)
Citizenship Classes, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

NEISD ESL Classes and GED Classes, 8:30 –11:00 a.m.
Curbside Prayer, 6:00–7:30 a.m.
Special Events (Seasonal)
Vine Wellness Counseling, 3:00 p.m. (by appointment only)
Project Transformation After-School Program, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Thursday

NEISD ESL Classes and GED Classes, 8:30–11:00 a.m.
Citizenship Classes, 1:30–3:00 p.m.
Project Transformation After-School Program, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday

Service on Saturday Meal, 5:00-5:30 p.m.
Service on Saturday Prayer Service, 5:30–6:00 p.m.

Sundays

La Roca Bible Study, 10:45 a.m.–noon
Special Needs Adults Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
La Roca Meals, noon-1:00 p.m.
La Roca Bilingual Worship, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

PASTOR PATRICK'S PAGE

I used to keep quotes stuck around my office; some were inspirational, some motivational, some just a speck of wisdom. This is one I found by accident, but it spoke to me at the time and still speaks to me. I taped it to my wall right above where I prepared lessons and bible studies. It is from a controversial author, and some might reject it based on who it is from. However, I really like it.



"I remember one morning when I discovered a cocoon in the back of a tree just as a butterfly was making a hole in its case and preparing to come out. I waited awhile, but it was too long appearing and I was impatient. I bent over it and breathed on it to warm it. I warmed it as quickly as I could and the miracle began to happen before my eyes, faster than life. The case opened; the butterfly started slowly crawling out, and I shall never forget my horror when I saw how its wings were folded back and crumpled; the wretched butterfly tried with its whole trembling body to unfold them. Bending over it, I tried to help it with my breath, in vain.

It needed to be hatched out patiently and the unfolding of the wings should be a gradual process in the sun. Now it was too late. My breath had forced the butterfly to appear all crumpled, before its time. It struggled desperately and, a few seconds later, died in the palm of my hand.

That little body is, I do believe, the greatest weight I have on my conscience. For I realize today that it is a mortal sin to violate the great laws of nature. We should not hurry, we should not be impatient, but we should confidently obey the external rhythm."

— Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba the Greek*

As someone whose job it is to speak to the lives and souls of families, the quote above reminds me of the great obligation that I have. It also reminds me that influence can be misused if I lose focus. Further, it reminds me that each life, each soul, must find and follow its own path. If I try to force someone into an understanding of who Christ is or to make a decision to follow a path of belief, then I am the one who is responsible for the outcomes. However, if I let Christ take the lead and I simply follow where He goes, I am set free. To do, and say only, that I feel is best for the souls in front of me. Many times that is also what is best for my old soul. That is why I like the quote by Kazantzakis, because it's beautiful, it is imagery, and haunting in it is reality.

Blessings,
Pastor Patrick



NEW MEMBERS



GISELA RITTER-PEREZ



KELLY VILLALOBOS



MARIA CASTELLANOS GARCIA

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!



MARK & TYLER ELLIS



TERRY & DOROTHY VORPAHL



MIKE & JENNIFER FINUCANE
GAVIN & ELIANA



SUZANNE PALM

CHILDREN

3rd Grade Bibles

If you have a 3rd grader that has not received their Bible, please contact Katherine Reed at KatherineR@nhumc.org or 210.654.0881.

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 27, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Northern Hills UMC parking lot

Families are invited to join us for a night of fun with costumes, photo booth, games, hayride, and of course CANDY!

WE NEED YOU!

Who? The congregation! We need you to bring the fun, and creativity with your decorated trunks, and your candy! There will be a contest for most creatively decorated trunks!

For any questions, contact Katherine Reed at 210.654.0881.

The Giving Tree

There is nothing better than being able to be a blessing for another person. Coming again, this Christmas season, is our chance to spread the gift of God's love through the act of gift giving.

The Giving Tree is an opportunity to love children in our community and provide a Christmas gift they may not have gotten otherwise. Through our contacts with the Ministry Center, we will be collecting information about families who are in need. The child's gift wish will be written on the hanging ornament on The Giving Tree.

On Sunday, November 17, choose one or more ornaments, purchase the item, attach the ornament to the wrapped gift, and return to the Gathering Area or Sanctuary, no later than December 8.

Kids Worship on Wednesday

1st—5th grade

6:15-7:00 p.m. Welcome and Worship

7:00-8:00 p.m. Kids Bible Studies (1st-3rd grade)

Kids Bible Studies (4th-5th grade)

8:00 p.m. Parent Pick Up

6:15-8:00 p.m. Childcare for infant—5 years old

Welcome and Worship Together

During this time, we play a game, sing worship songs, and have a short message together. At 7:00 p.m., we will split into our different classes, 1st-3rd grade and 4th and 5th grade for Bible study time.

Breakfast with Santa

Join us on Saturday, December 7, for Breakfast with Santa, 9:00—11:00 a.m. Don't forget your camera for your photo opportunity with Santa! A light breakfast will be served as well as a craft, game, and your picture with Santa. We'll see you there!

Children's Christmas Program

Our Children's Christmas program will be Wednesday, December 11, 6:15 p.m. Children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited to participate.

Our rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Wednesdays — 7:00-8:00 p.m.

(after Welcome and Worship)

October 30, November 6, 13, 20,

December 4 (Dress rehearsal), 6:15 p.m.

Christmas Program — Wednesday,

December 11, 6:15 p.m.,

in the Worship Center

YOUTH

Core: Love Jesus and love like Jesus - Matthew 22:37-39

We value scripture as the foundation to grow spiritually and build faith.

We value building sincere relationships.

We value Servanthood.

October 11-13

Middle School Fall Retreat at Camp Buckner

Come play games, worship, swim, and enjoy a fun weekend of growing together in relationships with each other and with God!

Cost \$60, scholarships are available.

Registrations are coming soon.

November 25-30

No small groups, basketball, or youth group.

Enjoy Thanksgiving with your families!

December 18

All youth Christmas party

December 22-January 5

No basketball, small groups, or youth group

November 22

The Greatest All Nighter Ever

Make sure you are on Carly's announcement email list, CarlyP@nhumc.org, to be in the know.



Follow us on Facebook: Northern Hills Youth

Follow us on Instagram: northernhillsyouth
Nhumc_hs Nhumc_ms_youth

Northern Hills United Methodist Church
3703 N Loop 1604 E
San Antonio, TX 78247

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Antonio, TX
Permit No. 3316

Christmas Eve Schedule

Tuesday, December 24

At NHUMC, 3703 N. Loop 1604 E.:

Worship Center:

3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.—Traditional Worship

5:00 p.m.—Contemporary Worship

Sanctuary:

11:00 p.m.—Silent Night—Traditional Worship

At the Ministry Center (4306 Naco Pass):

1:00 p.m.—Christmas for All Nations

Communion and candlelight at all services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 210.654.0881 OR WWW.NHUMC.ORG