

JANUARY-MARCH 2019

NORTHERN HILLS *Network*

HOPE IN (AND FOR) 2019

Life is, and always will be, hard. Life is, and always will be, a struggle. Sin is, and always will be, present. We're all in a struggle, one that often feels like we're losing, and we're all – the righteous as well as the unrighteous – affected by sin, which causes discord, fear, despair, and alienation.

If we start with that acknowledgment, then we can speak realistically about hope. Hope is *not* faith that struggles will end, nor that life will get easy, nor that sin will somehow just go away. Hope is about the rugged stubborn belief that we will overcome sin's effects, and we will not be conquered by hardships and struggles.

Hope is not naive. Hope is not wishful thinking. Pollyanna is a fictional character, while real-life is nonfiction. Biblical hope is not blind to reality. It faces reality head-on while finding courage in the confidence that God still cares and is still at work. If we are possessed of the hope that comes from faith in God, then we will never give up. If we start with God, then we cannot help but bring renewed optimism and hope to our worldly struggles.

Paul the apostle (in 2 Corinthians 4) says, “⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” He then cites the resurrection of Jesus – God's conquest of life over death – as the basis of his unrelenting hope. And he concludes with, “¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart ...”

Whatever else it is, hope is not losing heart. I begin the new year hopeful for our country, hopeful for our denomination, hopeful for our congregation and our future. I will not lose heart. And I urge you: however overwhelming your health, aging, financial, family, or relational problems may be, don't lose heart. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Let his eternal glory fill you. Choose to live as one who is convinced that God still cares and is still at work in our world. We have every good reason to hope.

God Bless,
Milton Lewis, Senior Pastor

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day—office closed
- 2 Church office resumes regular schedule
- 8 UMW Circle of Love, 12:00-2:00 p.m., B1
- 9 W.O.W begins , 6:15 p.m., NHUMC Familia Gathering, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Birthday card ministry, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Faith Circle, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., B1
- 15 Tuesday night Bible Study at the Ministry Center, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 16 Worship, Bible Studies/Classes and Children's activities resume
- 18-21 All Youth Winter Retreat
- 28 ESL Class at the Ministry Center begins, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 30 ESL Class at Steubing Ranch and Stahl ES, begins, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
- 31 ESL Class at NHUMC begins, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 2 Youth Lonestar to Lonestar Trivia Night, 6:00 p.m. , Worship Center
- 3 Souper Bowl Sunday
- 12 UMW Circle of Love, 12:00-2:00 p.m., B1
- 15-18 Senior High Retreat
- 19 Birthday card ministry, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Faith Circle, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., B1
- 22 Parents Night Out, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Bunco, 6:30 p.m.
- 24 Pastors & Paninis, 12:15 p.m., B1 & B2
- 25 Day School Open Registration, 9:00-11:00 p.m., Gathering Area

MARCH

- 6 Ash Wednesday
Ashes to Go at the Ministry Center, 5:30-8:30 a.m.
- 11-15 Spring Break, no Wednesday night activities
- 12 Network Folders, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Circle of Love, 12:00-2:00 p.m., B1
- 19 Birthday card ministry, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area
UMW Faith Circle, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., B1
- 20 Lenten Study begins, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Parent's Night Out 5:30-9:30 p.m.
Let's Celebrate Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- 30 Blessing of the Bikes, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

These figures include Wednesday and Sunday worship services.

September:	October:	November:
9/2: 738	10/7: 865	11/4: 821
9/9: 788	10/14: 832	11/11: 936
9/16: 909	10/21: 898	11/18: 831
9/23: 990	10/28: 836	11/25: 731
9/30: 905		

MOVING ON GROUP

The Moving On group is a fellowship group for widows and widowers. We meet once a month for lunch and fellowship at different restaurants. Come join us for the fun and fellowship. Contact Maxine Webber for more info or reservations at 210.451.9162 or email maxinewebber@att.net

January 19: at Bourbon Street
February 16: at Salsalitas
March 16: at Delicious Gardens

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

W.O.W. - WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY

THIS WINTER — ON JANUARY 9
NHUMC FAMILIA GATHERING
5:30-7:00 P.M.

BEGINNING ON JANUARY 16

5:30 P.M.—FELLOWSHIP, IN THE GATHERING AREA
6:15 P.M. W.O.W. - WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY:

“STANDING FIRM”

LEARNING TO BE STRONG IN LIFE'S CHANGES AND STRUGGLES.
SERMON SERIES—BOOK OF 1 PETER

7:00 P.M. BIBLE STUDIES/CLASSES

OTHER MINISTRIES/ACTIVITIES:

6:15-8:00 P.M. CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE FOR INFANTS TO 5 YEARS

6:15-7:00 P.M. WACKY WEDNESDAY (FOR K-5TH GRADE)

6:30-8:00 P.M. YOUTH GROUP

7:00-8:00 P.M. GODLY PLAY (1ST-3RD GRADER)

7:00-8:00 P.M. BIBLE ACTIVITY TIME (4TH & 5TH GRADE)

7:00 P.M. TRADITIONAL CHOIR PRACTICE

BIBLE STUDIES/CLASSES

LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE
BIBLE STUDIES/CLASSES ON THE WEBSITE.
WWW.NHUMC.ORG

BEGINNING ON JANUARY 15
AT THE MINISTRY CENTER CAMPUS

Tuesday Bible Study
Guitar Class

BEGINNING ON JANUARY 16

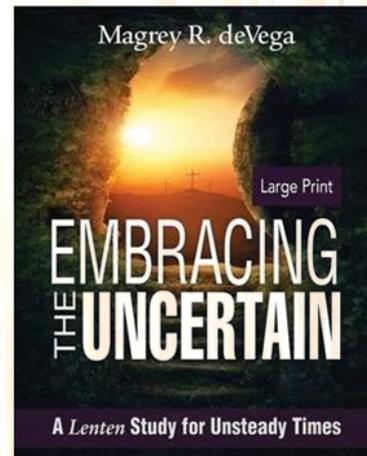
Genesis Prehistory
Forgiveness Class
Women's Study
Men's Study
Food Class
Military Ministry
Monday Precepts Class
Monday Morning Moms

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

BEGINNING MARCH 13

Church wide Lent Bible Study

“Embracing the Uncertain”



MINISTRY & MORE

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Sue Bohlen, Diana Poerner and Donna Roeder attended the Open House for the Texas Diaper Bank at their new location.

The Texas Diaper Bank distributed 4.5 million diapers for 32,000 babies, children and seniors with the assistance of 40+ partner agencies. Over 5,100 volunteers worked at the Diaper Bank this year. Ninety percent of the clients reported a reduction in stress after attending our Calm Parent classes. Eighty six percent of the clients saw a decrease of instances of diaper rash, fever, UTI's, and other infections. Our unit will be touring new location this spring.



Circle Meetings:

LOVE (2nd Tuesday, 12:00 p.m., B1)

Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13

Focus: Bible study, making lap quilts, etc.

Contact: Diana Poerner
teapott53@aol.com

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

Jan. 15, Feb. 19, Mar. 19

Focus: Bible study, lap quilts, etc.

Contact: Sue Bohlen & Alvina Mitchell
AlvinaKayMitchell@gmail.com



We are so pleased to report the **Northern Hills United Methodist Women** distributed \$10,400 towards missions locally and internationally this year. We appreciate your generous support of our efforts. Many hands working together to do God's work accomplishes great things.



Save the Date!
Let's Celebrate Event
March 22, 2019

Faith Circle, October meeting. Alvina Mitchell presented a program about how UMW helps with missions around the world. She also provided the beautiful decorations.

Thank you, Alvina

MINISTRY AND MORE

MILITARY MINISTRY

We've always known it, but now it's official...Northern Hills is a "Military Friendly" church. The Military Missions Network gives this designation to churches that have a heart to minister to military members and families. NHUMC is now listed on the MMN website where military families around the world, who are looking for a church home, can see that we will welcome them during their assignment in San Antonio. Using this website can reduce the amount of time military families have to spend looking for a new church home, giving them more time to serve God during their relatively short time living in San Antonio. You will find NHUMC on the MMN website listed under the "Joint Base San Antonio" military region.

It has been a busy couple months. We showed the movie, *We Are Stronger*, in October on our main campus and at the Ministry Center. The movie tells the story of a combat veteran who realizes that having Jesus in his life is an indispensable part of his recovery from PTSD. It also points out that people other than combat vets can be affected by PTSD...burn survivors, first responders, and abuse victims, to name a few. Following the showings of the movie, we began offering a small group discussion called *Going Deeper* that looks at PTSD from the perspective of a different character from the movie each week. We'll be showing the movie again in January at the kick off of another *Going Deeper* class.

We decided early in its planning for the movie that we wanted all proceeds from ticket sales and donations to go to a non-profit organization that supports veterans, and what better choice than one run by a member of our own congregation. We decided on Soldiers Undertaking Disabled SCUBA (SUDS), an organization started and run by John Thompson, that employs SCUBA to help veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan recover from their combat injuries. We were honored to present the check to John on Veteran's Day during the 11:00 traditional service that he attends.

We also hosted NHUMC Veteran's Day dinner. It was an inspiring evening with about 200 members of our congregation in attendance. Leandra Milton, who attends the Current service, sang an eye-watering, a cappella rendition of the National Anthem, to open the evening, and later led us all in singing God Bless America. Lieutenant General Jeffrey Buchanan, Commander of the United States Army North (Fifth Army), was the keynote speaker. He talked about what makes a true hero: courageous acts and noble purpose. LTG Buchanan told the story of both a military and a civilian hero...Army Private Stephen C. Sanford who earned the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions in Iraq in 2005, and Rosa Parks for her heroic and pivotal leadership role in the civil rights movement. Special guests for the evening were Mr. Robert Naething, Deputy to the Commanding General of United States Army North (Fifth Army), and his wife, Cindy; and Technical Sergeant Roland Dullnig, a World War II veteran who was a crew chief in the Army Air Corps working on A-20 and A-26 aircraft.



The Air Force Band of the West-Nightwatch provided music for the evening, and the St. Mary's Army ROTC performed color guard honors. We will strive to make next year's dinner even more memorable, so put it on your calendars now!

Northern Hills is in the midst of developing its long-range plan, and the Military Ministry is a part of that process. The Military Ministry plan is an ambitious one and will require more team members to fully execute. If you have a passion for serving military families, let us know...we'd love to have you on the team!

Finally, the Military Ministry is making plans to host quarterly service projects to lend a hand to some of the many veteran support organizations throughout San Antonio. Watch for details in the near future.

MINISTRY CENTER

RESOLUTIONS?? 🤔

Someone asked me a few days ago, “Do you make New Year’s resolutions?” and my immediate answer was “no, because I always end up breaking them”. Had I said yes, I suspect I would have been given a suggestion on how I might improve some aspect of my life.

As I thought about resolutions, I remembered a few that worked out well and a few that just didn’t. Here are some examples:

Lose weight (a frequent resolution) – Result: I have my ups and downs

Go by the gym more often (2016 resolution). Result – depends. I drive by a gym on the way to work Every day. I don’t go in, but technically I go by more often.

Go to church more often (1998 resolution) – Result: I kept this one and I do go inside.

Volunteer and serve more often (2002 resolution) – Result – I kept this one, although in the beginning I was voluntold more often than I volunteered.

Other than going to church, my resolution to volunteer and serve has had the greatest impact on my spiritual growth. A few months ago, we studied the Epistle of James. I really enjoy his straight talk about faith, and James 2:14-17 is one of my favorite scriptures.

“Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

At the Ministry Center, we literally have someone come in and ask for a meal every day. On most days we can supply these visitors with what they need because of the support of our congregation. James used clothing and feeding our brothers and sisters as an example of faith in action; faith that is demonstrated by service.

I am blessed to be able to say that NHUMC is a congregation that takes service to heart. We have ministries that support the community in many ways. Some of these ministries operate with just a few dedicated people and more volunteers are always needed. There are many opportunities to serve at our 1604 and Ministry Center locations and you are needed.

Do you make New Year’s resolutions? If you do, or even if you don’t, I would like to suggest one resolution that might just change your life. Volunteer to serve in one of the many ministries of our church or in the community. You will be blessed.

Pastor Abdon



MINISTRY CENTER

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE MINISTRY CENTER

MONDAYS

- HOMEWORK HELP AT THE AVISTAR OAKS APARTMENT COMPLEX:

This January we will continue teaming with an area apartment complex to provide homework help to elementary school age children. The goal of the program is to reach out beyond the walls of our church and provide homework help to kids who would otherwise be home alone after school. We are asking for volunteers who will be able to serve for 2.5 hours a week from 2:45 - 5:15 p.m. for a six week session.

- CONVERSATIONAL ESL MENTORSHIP 6:30-8:00 P.M.



TUESDAYS

- GAME ACTIVITIES WITH STERLING ADULT CARE 10:00-11:00 A.M.
- TUESDAY CONNECTION CURBSIDE FELLOWSHIP 3:30-5:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAYS

- CURBSIDE PRAYER AND HOSPITALITY, 5:30-7:30 AM

THURSDAYS

- THURSDAY CURBSIDE FELLOWSHIP (NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY)

SATURDAYS

- SERVICE ON SATURDAY: GREETERS, USHERS, SERVERS, MEAL PREP, 4:00-5:30 P.M.

SUNDAYS

- LA ROCA: GREETERS, USHERS, SERVERS, MEAL PREP, 11:30 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
- BIBLE STUDY LEADERS



MONDAY-THURSDAY

- PROJECT TRANSFORMATION AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM 3:00-6:00 P.M.

One-to-One Reading Volunteers - Project Transformation is looking for caring volunteers to read with our after-school participants. The literacy component of Project Transformation is an exciting opportunity for volunteers to interact with our children in a one-to-one setting. The reading component takes place on Monday-Thursday from 4:45-5:45 p.m. We welcome both individuals and groups.

Homework Helpers - Every day, children will have time after school to work on homework. Project Transformation is looking for caring volunteers willing to work with children during this time to ensure they are understanding their work. Homework will take place alongside reading time, Monday-Thursday from 4:45-5:45pm.

Share Your Gift - Do you have a unique skill or talent that young children would enjoy learning about? Whether this skill be musical, STEM related, gardening, sports, or something totally different, you are invited to come teach a class to our after-school participants. Our special enrichment classes are Monday-Thursday from 4:15-5:00 p.m.

FROM YOUR PASTOR AMIGA

"May the Lord now show you kindness and faithfulness, and I too will show you the same favor because you have done this."

2 Samuel 2:6, NIV



Thank you Wanda,

From my Mom's heart.

When we came to Northern Hills UMC, in 2011, we did not know what life in Texas would look like. We had been serving in Ohio for 9 years and previously we were students at Wilmore Kentucky. We heard about the weather being warmer, the great BBQ and cowboy boots. So there was a mix of excitement as well as some fear for the new place.

So when we came to church the last Sunday of June of that year, my heart was pounding very hard thinking "Is this the place for us, for my kids to grow up in their faith, a place where we as family can be accepted, learn and maybe serve?" My husband Abel was the one the church brought on as Worship Leader. I came as a Mom. I wanted to be able to find the place for my kids to thrive. I walked through the doors and I found a big smile on one of the lay servants who led me to the Children's area. She took me to a Sunday School classroom, where there was this beautiful, with a special spice, Texan sister-in-Christ who smiled and said "Hello I am Wanda, I am the Director of Children ministries, **WELCOME!**" She didn't know what was happening in my heart in that moment, but God did. God used her, so when she said those words, I really felt accepted with my family. That was an honest, from the heart **WELCOME.**

Wanda has served in this church for over 25 years. If we think of the impact of children, families, and lives that she has had during that time, there wouldn't be room in this place for all of them to sit. God uses Wanda not just to educate lives, but also to impact the life stories of people.

My kids have been able to learn the Scripture, how to pray, serve in the community and dress of every character that is possible in the Bible. From shepherds, wise men, and stars, all of that under the leadership of Wanda. We have seen Sunday after Sunday kids gathering around this amazingly well dressed sister and learning the word of God and prayer. We have seen the community coming around receiving candy on Trunk and Treat. We have seen how she has the direct phone line to Santa Claus to come to Northern Hills and listen to the requests of hundreds of kids. We have seen when she prays for the Day School teachers and walks with them in their joys and difficulties. We have seen a real disciple of Christ in her example.



Wanda is coming to a new "upgrade" in her life. She will be full time "Grandma", besides other things. She feels called by God to shift ministry and retire from the full time position of Director of Children's Ministries. It will be very hard to say good-bye to her. It will be sad not to have her as a staff member. However, we understand.

That does not mean that we do not have a full agenda of things where she can come and volunteer. I have dreamed for her to support the women ministries, from teaching us how to dress to teaching us how to pray! What do you women think?



Wanda: Thank you! Thank you for teaching through your example the meaning of the word **WELCOME.** Thank you for teaching the most important skills in life to our kids to grow in their faith. Thank you for your example of a beautiful, funny, and spicy Texan sister, that is a Disciple of Christ.

We bless you and we are thankful. Love you.

Pastor Lupina

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME
TO OUR
CHURCH
FAMILY!



IRENE THOMPSON



ALMA TOVAR



TYLER BOWKER



MARK & AMY BUONGIORNO
ERIC & ALY



JACK & SARAH BENEDETTI



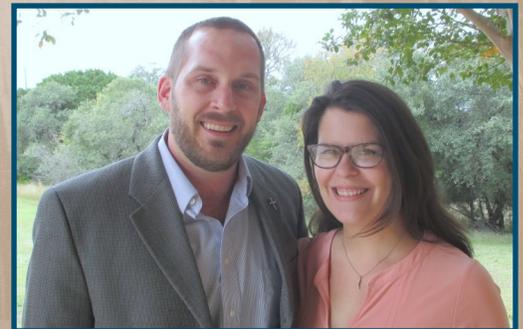
KEN & MICHELLE GLASCOCK



LAURA SALAZAR
AMELIA & DAVID



BOB & IRENE ALLEN



TIMOTHY & TARA DEVRIES



BRIAN & MICHELLE SCHWARTZ
ELIJAH & MAKENNA



BONNIE DRIGGERS



ANA GUZMAN



BEN & SUSAN GETTER



CHILDREN

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Resumes January 16

6:15-8:00 p.m.— Infant-5 yrs. Childcare
6:15-7:00 p.m.—K-5th grade—Wacky Wednesday
7:00-8:00 p.m.—1st-3rd grade—Godly Play
7:00-8:00 p.m.—4th & 5th grade—Bible Activity Time

THANK YOU!

Northern Hills is such a generous congregation!
Thank you for your loving gifts to over 400 children. This year you made a lot of children from all over San Antonio smile and feel loved. The Giving Tree supported The Miller Center, Eldorado, Oak Grove and Clear Springs Elementary Schools, as well as Rutledge Apartments and other local families. We are proud to be a church sharing God's love at Christmas!

DAY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Our Day School is preparing for the 2019-2020 school year! Open registration is Monday, February 25, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Please bring your child's shot records, child's doctor and Hospital address/phone numbers, plus your \$100 registration fee. Please remember, the line forms early and spots are limited. For more information or a tour of the school, please contact Jennifer or Nadia at 210-654-8406.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

VBS 2019

JUNE 24-28

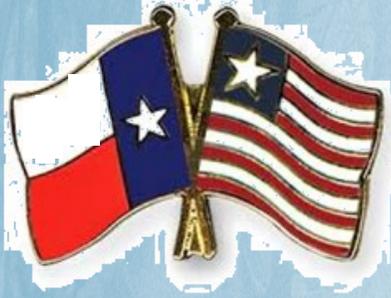
TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat was a huge success again this year! Thanks to all who volunteered and participated. We had over 500 participates this year. This event continues to grow every year and provides a relaxed, welcoming environment to our campus.



YOUTH

FROM THE LONESTAR TO THE LONESTAR!



The youth are going to Liberia!
 Join us February 2
 for a Trivia night and silent auction.
 All proceeds will go to the Liberia mission trip.
 Buy a table and create your own team,
 or join as a free agent to be placed with a team.
 More information will be coming out in the next
 few months, so watch your announcements.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

JANUARY

- 4 Haven for Hope service project
- 6 Liberia mission meeting
- 18-21 Winter Retreat
- 27 Liberia Fundraiser meeting

FEBRUARY

- 2 Lonestar Trivia Night!
- 15-17 Senior High Retreat

MARCH

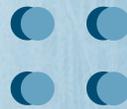
- 10-17 Spring Break, no activities
- 17 Liberia meeting
- All of March "March of the Flamingos"

WINTER RETREAT

When: January 18-21, 2019 (MLK Weekend)
Where: Camp Zephyr (151 FM 3162, Sandia, TX 78383)
Theme: In The Everyday: Finding God in the Familiar
 (Colossians 3:12-17)
Who: All 6th-12th Graders who have the desire to
 deepen their relationships with Christ by moving
 from *knowing* Christ to *following* Christ.
Cost: \$175
 Students can register at:
<https://goo.gl/forms/cBA81b8iJJ5wZOAM2>
 Adults who are interested in leading please talk to Carly.

MARCH OF THE FLAMINGOS!

Throughout March...
 March of the **Flamingos!**
 The birds are flying!
 Watch out, they just might land in your yard!
 This is a fundraiser to support the
 Liberia mission trip and projects.



GREATEST ALL NIGHTER EVER!



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

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CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, 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