# Northern Hills MCUON MCUON MORE MORE

April-June 2019

#### A Season of Change

We relocated the church to our address on Loop 1604 in May of 2002. I have described the first 5-6 years as being on a roller coaster. All we could do was strap in and hang on. We had no real control over where it took us. It took us to great heights and deep lows, and always at a fast speed.

By the grace of God, we made it through those first tumultuous years of rapid change. Around 2008, things began to settle down. We got our bearings. We stabilized. We figured some things out about who we were and who we weren't. We formulated a clear mission statement, constructed the sanctuary, saw and built the vision of our Ministry Center, and developed a staff that is second to none. These past 7-8 years have been years of relative calm, steady growth, expanding our vision and reach, and years of becoming comfortable with our identity and our diversity, of living in to who we are.

Now some things are about to change again. I am retiring, and Lupina is taking the helm. Wanda Stanley is retiring also. Between the 2 of us, you have about 55 years of leadership. A new children's ministry leader will be coming on board in June. We'll have a new associate pastor to join Lupina and Abdon in pastoral leadership. We don't know who that will be, but we do know it will bring change we'll have to adjust and adapt to, even as the new associate will need to adjust and adapt to us. Changes are also coming to our denomination, changes which will undoubtedly affect us and all local UM congregations.

The changes within our church family are *natural* life changes to which we will adapt, because we know who we are, and because we are confident in our vision and mission. The changes that will be imposed upon us from General Conference actions, we will likewise assimilate into our congregational life, but we will not let the Greater Church move us from our clear sense of congregational identity and purpose.

The Lord remains our Anchor and our Rock. The Holy Spirit remains our Guide. Jesus remains our purpose and our mission. Our leadership – pastoral, staff, and lay – is far more spiritually mature than we were 17 years ago. Lupina Villalpando-Stewart is destined to become one of the great leaders in all of Methodism. She is ready for this moment. Her vision, drive, passion, and leadership will inspire a fresh era of renewal. The church will rally 'round her, and we will be just fine!

God's plans are good plans. God is still in control. God will lead us where we need to go. Let us follow our Leader and our leaders with confidence!

Your friend and servant,
Milton Lewis aka Pastor Bolillo
Senior Pastor for a Little While Longer

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.
But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

## Calendar

# April

- 6 UMM Golf Tournament
  - Youth Service Project at the Diaper Bank
- 7 Mission Wall Letter Writing Fundraiser
- 8 UMM Meeting, Longhorn Café, Nacogdoches Road, 6:45 p.m.
- 9 UMW Circle of Love, 12:00-2:00 p.m., B1
- 13 Family Easter Celebration, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- 14 Palm Sunday
- 16 Birthday card ministry, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area UMW Faith Circle, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., B1
- 18 Holy Thursday Service, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- 19 Church Office Closed for Good Friday
  Good Friday Service, Cantata, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- 21 Easter Sunday
- 25 5th Grade Party, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 26 Church Office Closed for Battle of Flowers
- 28 Youth Confirmation Sunday

# May

- 1 Children's Day Event at the Ministry Center, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 3 Parents Night Out, 6:30-9:30 p.m. BUNCO, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- 4 Global 6K for Water
- 5 5th Grade Parent Orientation, 12:15 p.m.
- 12 Mother's Day
- 13 UMM Meeting, Longhorn Café, Nacogdoches Road, 6:45 p.m.
- 14 UMW Circle of Love, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m., B1
- 19 Senior Sunday
- 21 Birthday Card Ministry, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area UMW Faith Circle, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., B1 Network/Program Guide deadline (for July-September)
- 24 Day School Graduation, 9:15 a.m., Worship Center
- 26 VBS Volunteer Registration begin in the Gathering Area
- 27 Church Office Closed for Memorial Day
- 28 Day School last day of school

#### 2 VBS Student Registration begins in the Gathering Area

- 5 Annual Conference (through 8)
- 6 Last day of NEISD
- 9 Pentecost Sunday
- 10 UMM Meeting, Longhorn Café, Nacogdoches Road, 6:45 p.m.
- 11 Network Folders, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area UMW Circle of Love, 12:00-2:00 p.m., B1
- 12 Project Transformation Begins at the Ministry Center
- 13 VBS Volunteer Training, 6:30 p.m., Wesley Annex
- 15 Youth Liberia Mission Trip (through June 27)
- 16 Father's Day
- 18 VBS Decorating Party, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (through June 19)
  Birthday card ministry, 9:00 a.m., Gathering Area
  UMW Faith Circle, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., B1
- 23 Pastor Milton's Retirement Reception
- 24 VBS—Roar (through June 28)
- 26 Family Fun Night at the Ministry Center, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- 30 Pastor Milton's last day VBS Sunday

# Jane

### 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.

April 20, 11:00 a.m., Olive Garden May 18, 11 a.m., La Hacienda June 15, 11:00 a.m., Chili's

#### Rene Carrillo Bible Fund

A special fund to purchase Bibles for worshipers and visitors to the Ministry Center has been established by the family of the late Rev. Rene Carrillo. Rene served churches in New York State. Upon retirement, he and wife Nana moved to San Antonio to be closer to children and grandchildren. They made NHUMC their church home. Rene had a great love for the Lord and for Scripture. During his ministry, he derived joy from giving people the "wonderful words of life." Rev. Carrillo died in 2018 after a long battle with cancer. His family established this fund with a generous contribution in his memory. Making Bibles available is an important part of our Ministry Center's work. If you wish to contribute to this Designated Fund, simply memo your check "Carrillo Bible Fund."

#### United Methodist Women

Parent's Night Out: May 3 Bunco: May 3

Faith Circle hosted a tour of the new location of the Texas Diaper Bank, in February.







#### **Attendance:**

These figures include Wednesday and Sunday worship services.

December	January
12/2: 922 12/9: 837 12/16: 1315 12/23: 796	1/6: 786 1/13: 937 1/20: 877 1/27: 941
Christmas Eve: 1383	<u>February</u> 2/3: 946
12/30: 600	2/10: 917 2/17: 889 2/24: 781

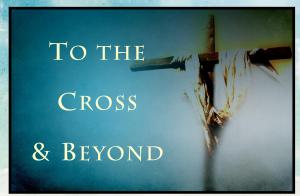
# Dollars of Hope

Pastor Lewis,
I was grateful for being chosen
to receive a check at Christmas
from your church. This has been
a great help due to health issues.
It's hard to explain I have been
giving to those in need and was
so thankful for receiving.
Sincerely, Casandra

# W.O.W. - Worship on Wednesday

#### BEGINS MARCH 20

5:30 p.m.- Fellowship in the Gathering Area
6:15 p.m. - Communion Service in the Sanctuary



SERMON SERIES—THE GOSPEL OF MARK

7:00 P.M. - CHURCH WIDE BIBLE STUDY

EMBRACING THE UNCERTAIN A LENTEN STUDY FOR UNSTEADY TIMES
IN B1 & B2

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

APRIL 24, IS THE LAST NIGHT FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES UNTIL JULY 10. LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS SOON.

#### W.O.W. Summer Events

May 1—Children's Day Party @ the Ministry Center, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
June 26—Family Fun Night—Project Transformation @ the Ministry Center, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
July 24—Family Fun Night—Project Transformation @ the Ministry Center, 5:30-7:00 p,m.
(more details coming soon.)

SUMMER SERIES—ACTS OF SERVICE—BEGINS JULY 10

#### Staff Spotlight



Martha Phelps has joined the NHUMC staff as the new Administrative Assistant on the Traditional Worship Team. She graduated from the University of the Incarnate Word and married her husband Bill, in 2000. They have two children, Jocelyn and William. They first visited the

church in 2011 and were known as the "Trunk or Treat Family"! They became members by December 2011 and have loved it here ever since. Martha has served on many committees over the years, including the UMW Executive Committee, Nominations, Ad Board, Missions Prayer Team, Family Ministries, and Healthy Temple. She co-lead the 9:45 Youth Intergenerational class for a few years, she is a certified Lay Servant and has been an ESL Mentor since it's inception. Martha has worked with special events and Supper Lite since 2013. Serving through Northern Hills has become who she is. Martha is excited to have the opportunity to be part of the Traditional Worship Team.



# Ministry & More

#### DID YOU KNOW?...

Northern Hills UMC has 10 worship services every week, including 3 communion services and 3 prayer services.

Come praise God with us!

#### Sundays:

#### 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary (1604)

**Traditional Worship** with organ, piano, and choir, familiar hymns, friendly faces, and proclaiming God's word.



#### 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary (1604)

**The Table** is a weekly communion service. It has all of the substance of traditional worship with a slightly more casual feel.

### 9:45 & 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Worship Center (1604)

**9:30 a.m.** Breakfast Gathering—breakfast finger foods are served and fellowship time abounds in the worship center.

**9:45 a.m.**—Contemporary Worship is modern worship with high-energy Christian music.

**11:00 a.m.**—Contemporary Worship is modern worship mixed with a gospel setting.



#### 1:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center (Naco Pass)

La Roca is English/Spanish bilingual, fully accessible to speakers of either language. Communion is served weekly, and it has an intergenerational blend of both Anglo and Hispanic worship music. Also, a free lunch is served each week at 12:15 p.m. before worship.

#### Tuesdays:

#### 6:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary (1604)

**Tuesday morning prayer** offers a chance to come together for a time of prayer and a devotional to start your day right and help center your soul toward Christ.

#### Wednesdays:

#### 6:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center (Naco Pass)

Wednesday morning prayer is an informal gathering with members of the community to sing and lift up prayers to God. Free coffee and donuts are served each week.



#### 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary (1604)

**WOW (Worship on Wednesdays)** is a blended-style communion service with messages shared by NHUMC lay servants. (This service is subject to seasonal schedule, so check the church calendar at nhumc.org)



#### Saturdays:

**5:30 p.m. in the Ministry Center** (Naco Pass) **SOS (Service on Saturdays)** is a time of singing, lifting up joys and concerns in prayer, and a brief devotional. A free dinner is served before worship each week at 5:00 p.m.

# Ministry Center

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

How often do we take risks? I would venture to say we do this every single day. From driving a car, to doing something new at work, to trying out a new food that may not agree with us (especially if I've prepared it).

Some professions like law enforcement or firefighting always involve taking risks. I have a granddaughter who is a Correctional Officer and I can't imagine doing that kind of dangerous work, but her training has prepared her for her occupation.

In many parts of the world being a Christian is very dangerous and publicly expressing your faith carries significant risk. Fortunately, in this country we have the freedom to worship as we choose and, for the most part, we are not persecuted because of our faith. Yet many consider it too much of a challenge or risk to express their faith outside the walls of a church.

Many churches remain closed to new ideas, forms of worship, ministries, etc. because it's perceived to be too risky. Jesus was a risk taker, he challenged people to take risks, he stood up to injustices, he associated with people who were despised, people who no one cared about or wanted around.

I frequently hear from people whose lives have been changed because someone took a chance on them. Someone took a risk and started a ministry that had an impact on their lives. One ministry that I would like to highlight is the Adult Special needs Ministry led by Vicki and Fil Spangler. Vicki, Fil and a group of dedicated volunteers at the Ministry Center invite special needs adults to visit on Monday and Tuesday mornings for choir, games and a devotional time. Recently a baking class was started that enables Special Needs Adults along with their mentors to prepare baked goods for the various events at the Ministry Center. This ministry started with just a question of how to help fill a need for snacks with volunteers who are interested in serving.

Christ knew how hard it would be to go out into the world and evangelize. That is why he sent his disciples out in pairs (Luke 10:1) so that they could encourage, protect, and be witnesses for each other. As we move into this new season, I encourage you to keep your eyes and ears open to see and hear where God is calling you to serve. Ask the Lord to help you step out in faith and take a risk for him. Volunteer for something you haven't done before and ask a friend to join you. If you have an idea for a ministry, class, support group, bible study, etc. that you would like to lead, contact me.

Remember that whenever you are called to take a chance and try something new that Christ has put on your heart "the Lord your God is with you wherever you go".

Blessings,
Pastor Abdon

Sterling Choir Practice





# Ministry Center

#### Volunteer Opportunities at the Ministry Center

#### Mondays

- Homework Help at the Avistar Oaks Apartment Complex:

We continue to team 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 a.m.

#### 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

A BIG thank you to Ethan Waters and his crew for the Ministry Center's new Children's Playground. Ethan is member of Boy Scout Troop 226 and this was his Eagle Scout project. He painted 1/2 basketball court, hopscotch, and 4 square. He also built 2 benches and a life-size Connect 4 game. Great job Ethan!











Homework Helpers at the Avistar Oaks



Thank you card from a PT camper





# From Your Pastor Amiga

"For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

1 Corinthians 3: 9

# PUZZLING"

Do you like puzzles? In this season where technology overtakes the simple art of board games or puzzles I am very happy to see that my kids still enjoy putting a puzzle together.

I love to leave the pieces on the main table at the house, and during the day, I can see each member of the family, sometimes including the cats, moving the pieces to try to create this beautiful puzzle.

Nevertheless, as I mentioned, sometimes our cats bring their "input" and play with one of the pieces that we find on the floor days later. A puzzle can be awesome but if one piece, even a small one is missing, it affects the entire outcome. Each piece has its right place and has a valuable presence in the puzzle.

Northern Hills UMC is right now in a season of "puzzling". What does it mean? It means that many pieces are moving at the same time. New people are coming, others are retiring, some are shifting positions, perhaps sometimes can look as if a cat is hiding one piece! All of this brings many different emotions. It brings a sense of sadness to say good-bye to those who retire and we love them. It is exciting to see new people coming to serve and bring new ideas. It is sometimes confusing to try to rethink new roles.

So, how are we able to thrive in this "puzzling" time?

We remember who OWNS the puzzle. We remember that our Mighty God with His powerful Hand has been leading this church since its creation over 40 years ago. If there is something that we all have learned as part of this congregation is that God leads this church in experiences that are not humanly achieved but Spirit-led achieved. God owns Northern Hills UMC. God is the one who knows exactly what piece goes where. He has the image of who we are in His mind and leads us to that place.

Perhaps the biggest investment that we need to do as "pieces of the NHUMC puzzle" is to TRUST in the Mighty Hand that leads us. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust the Lord with all your heart".

So I invite you to pray in this way:

Take a moment to remember something that this church has done, where you saw God's hand in an incredible way. Give the Lord thanks for that.

Tell the Lord that as member of this puzzle, to place you where you will grow and serve the best. Pray that each of the pieces will trust God at this time.

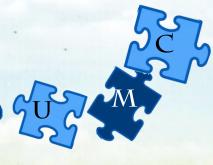
Pray that through this process of change, may the Lord protect us from anything that can distract us from His purpose.

Rejoice for the new ways God will use this NHUMC puzzle for His glory!

Homework: Put a puzzle together and while you do it, pray for NHUMC!







Bendiciones de Dios, Pastor Lupina

# New Members



Bill & Ann Patterson



Jane Schermerhorn



Leonard & Sharon Beurer



Cynthia Irving



David Vielman



Judy Dow



Arturo & Kathleen Romero



Joycie Ramirez & Gavin



Leaird & Ann Meadows

Welcome To Our Church Family!

# Children



#### Katherine Reed—Director of Children's Ministry

Katherine comes from Flower Mound, Texas where she attended high school, followed by an undergraduate degree in Geography from Texas State University. Katherine always has had a love for serving God and young people. She answered a call into youth and children's ministry when she was 18. Throughout her undergrad years she filled many different ministry positions in many different churches around Central Texas and beyond, including youth ministry intern at both Pflugerville UMC and University UMC in San Antonio, Children's Ministry Assistant at First Christian Church in San Marcos, and camp counselor with Eagle Lake Camp in Colorado Springs. After graduating from Texas State, Katherine was accepted to the Center for Youth Ministry

Training where she was placed as Children's and Youth Ministry Director at Canyon Lake United Methodist and pursued her Masters in Youth Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Katherine will be one of five in the very first class to graduate from Austin Presbyterian with a Master of Arts in Youth Ministry on May 26th.

When she's not doing ministry or studying, she loves getting outside and being in God's creation. Hiking, biking, kayaking, and floating the river are among her favorite activities. Katherine also has a passion for photography which takes her on many road trips around the Texas Hill Country, especially chasing bluebonnets in the spring. She has two cats who she adores named Oliver and Elvis.

Katherine is extremely excited to be joining Northern Hills UMC and cannot wait to see what God has planned for the church and her ministry with the kids and family of NHUMC. Katherine will be joining us on June 2.

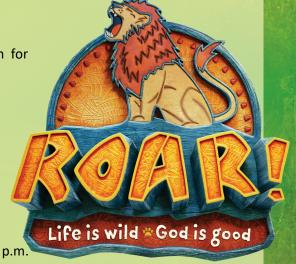
#### VBS 2019: June 24-28

Volunteer registration begins May 26 in the gathering area. Registration for children, age 3 (potty-trained) to completing 4th grade starts June 2. Registration fee is \$15 per student and includes snacks, t-shirt, VBS CD, games and fun!

You can download the child registration form on May 31 or pick one up at the gathering area table.

VBS volunteer training will be June 13th, from 7:00-8:00 p.m., in the Wesley Annex.

The VBS decorating party will be June 18 and 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



#### 5th Grade Graduation Party!

Thursday, April 25, 2019 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Bowling, laser tag, pizza and drink!

Main Event Entertainment at The Legacy Shopping Center (1604 & 281)

> RSVP to Carly at CarlyP@nhumc.org or 210.654.0881

#### Mark Your Calendar

April 25—5th Grade Graduation Party May 1—Children's Day Celebration May 24—Day School Graduation May 26—VBS Volunteer Registration June 2—VBS Registration Begins June 13—VBS Volunteer Training June 18-19—VBS Decorating Party June 24-28-VBS

#### Kids Kamp 2019

July 9—August 8

Kids Kamp is for children age 12 months through those that just completed kindergarten. The program runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. We provide fun, activities and snack, you provide lunch. Registration begins May 13. The registration fee is \$75 (due at registration) and tuition is \$400 (due July 9). Print registration forms online beginning on May 10 at www.nhumc.org or stop by the Children's office. Contact Jennifer Baier at 210.654.8406 for more information.

### Youth

#### FROM THE LONESTAR TO THE LONESTAR!



#### Lonestar to Lonestar **Liberia Youth Mission Trip**



Our Lonestar to Lonestar Silent Auction, Dinner, and Trivia Night on Saturday, 2/2/19, was a huge success! We had 25 teams competing in trivia hosted by San Antonio Live Trivia and Senior Pastor Milton's team won first place and took home the Lonestar to Lonestar trophy. With 200 people in attendance, it was a night to remember! Dinner was donated by Philippe Place, GM at Southerleigh, and the silent auction was full of many great items, gift cards, gift baskets, and more. Many thanks to our area businesses, families, Sunday School classes, church groups, and Day School for their generous donations. Our mission team was able to raise over \$7000 for our team and projects. Thank you all for your support and helping to make our fundraiser such a success!

#### Thank you to these businesses for their donations and support!



































































#### Thank you to these groups, families, and individuals for their donations!

- The Place Family
- The Lukowski Family
- The Patton Family
- The Waters Family
- The Powne Family
- Military Ministry
- NHUMC Day School Staff
- **Betty Barnes**
- **Current Remix**
- The Harris Family

- Pastor Milton
- Pastor Lupina
- The Phelps Family
- Andi Barrows
- Dora Aldrete
- The Spanglers
- Judy Colbenson
- **Todd Phillips**
- Anita Lunde
- Wendy Fehlauer
- Ruben Villalobos
- Ron Trafton

- Jean Schwatz
- Joan Newhouse
- **UMW**
- Jim Johnson
- James Weaver
- **UMM**
- Angela Sparks
- Beacons Sunday **School Class**
- **Exploring Our Faith**
- The Harral Family

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

# Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 14: Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 17: Fellowship, 5:30 p.m. & Communion service in the Sanctuary, 6:15 p.m.
Thursday, April 18: Holy Thursday Communion service in the Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 19: Good Friday Cantata in the Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.

He is Risen

Come, worship the Risen Christ at one of our 5 Easter Sunday services, April 21.

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship Service @ the Ministry Center

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship with Sanctuary Choir in the Worship Center

9:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship in the Worship Center

11:00 a.m. Blended Worship with Sanctuary Choir & Contemporary Praise Team

in the Worship Center

1:11 p.m. La Roca English/Spanish Communion Service @ the Ministry Center