

Northern Hills United Methodist Church
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San Antonio, TX 78247

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Northern Hills Day School
is now registering for

2021-2022



For more information
contact Jennifer Baier
210-654-8406

Northern Hills *network*

APRIL—JUNE 2022

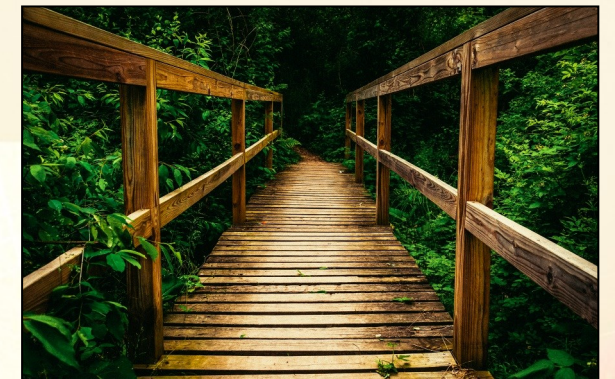
The Bridge Builder

I have no formal training in poetry. I like it but prefer narratives in all things from songs to movies, to written stories. So, it should come as no surprise that one of my favorite poems tells a story, rather than describing feelings and emotional expression. The poem I am talking about is *The Bridge Builder* by Will Allen Dromgoole.

Some of you may know I have worked in family and intergenerational ministry for over two decades. I have studied, pondered, criticized, and explored different expressions of ministry to children and youth. This journey has taken me through 2 states, 4 churches, and one doctorate degree. I believe the Church, Northern Hills, and the universal church, must make it a priority to invest, resources and time into the youth and children. The Barna Group released the findings of a study that found that 94% of followers of Christ made that decision before the age of 18. The conclusion is a little scarier, the church is always one generation away from not existing and will die if we do not focus and value our youngest folks. But I have never been a doomsayer when it comes to the church or any other groups. So, I prefer to view life from a positive tact. That is why I like *The Bridge Builder*. So many of us had someone who came before us, the people who shared with us, taught our Sunday schools and small groups, who gave of their time so that we could feel the love of Jesus before we knew him.

My question for you is whom are you building bridges for? Are you even building at all? How will the next generation of church leaders receive help from you?

Pastor Patrick



The Bridge Builder

by Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near,
“You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way;
You’ve crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head;
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,
“There followed after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!”

Legacy

“And God said: “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations”
Genesis 9:12

I have always enjoyed looking through photos of generations of a family. There are important characteristics that are carried from one generation to another. I love to identify the different physical characteristics that you can find. Identifying a common eye color, height, or maybe a dimple that is revealed when someone smiles.

There are other types of characteristics that are common throughout generations of families. Someone might say, “this is a family of entrepreneurs,” or “this is a family of talented musicians.” Some family characteristics we want to encourage to continue, but some we may be glad that end.

There are also Christian Family characteristics. God planned from the very beginning to have generational blessings and generational promises to His people. God encourages us to “tell your children” many things from His interaction with them. To remind them about God’s presence in moments of crisis, tell the children about moments of “excellent mistakes”, and to remember the vision of Hope. (Joel 1:3, Deuteronomy 4:9, Joshua 4:6)

As a Christian family, Northern Hills UMC, we are a living testimony of generational planning that was planted years ago. We have been at the 1604 campus location for 20 years and 5 years at the Ministry Center campus. For both campuses, there were generations before us that planned this.

The question for us today is, “What is the legacy that we want to leave for the next generation?” What are the words, trends, teachings, and the “excellent mistakes” that you would want the children of your children to know?

What are the priorities, as the NHUMC family, that you want new members to embrace? What are the experiences that you would rather not be part of the next generation? What is God telling us to share with the next generation, what will they carry in their hearts?

While we celebrate this anniversary at NHUMC, may we also live a life that is memorable for the next generation, leaving them a piece of their Christian legacy.

Bendiciones de Dios,
Sr. Pastor Lupina Stewart



Youth Ministry

5 Benefits of Youth Camps and Mission Trips

S’mores, singalongs, swimming, shaving cream fights...these are some of the staples of youth camps and mission trips. Many of us have meaningful, lifelong memories from camps and mission trips we went on as kids. I will never forget my very first mission trip in 8th grade. It was a life changing, eye opening experience for me. I know many others have similar stories. As we gear up for an exciting summer in the NHUMC Youth Ministry, I wanted to share 5 Benefits of youth camps and mission trips.

Time Away -

Students can get away from the distractions and chaos of life through camp and mission trips. One word I’ve started to hear more and more from teens when you ask them how they are is “stressed.” Camp and mission trips are often a retreat from the things that cause that stress. Everyone needs respite to clear the chaos so they can see and hear things in new ways. These trips are special opportunities to build relationships with peers and focus on God.

Stepping out of the Comfort Zone -

Whether it’s spending a week a way from home for the first time, sleeping in a bunk room, or learning how to repair a home that has experienced a disaster; these trips will push kids out of their comfort zones where they will learn new skills and new things about themselves. This leads to some great growth in kids and maybe even some really cool ministry opportunities.

Learning to be Part of a Team -

Camps and mission trips are a great resource for instilling the value of team work. In a culture that can be so “me-centered,” camps and mission trips get teens to learn how to utilize their strengths as individuals to work collaboratively to accomplish their goals. I’m always amazed at what students are able to accomplish when they are united and on mission together.

The Laughs and Friendships -

I’ve been leading youth groups on camps and mission trips for almost 11 years, and I can still laugh about some of the jokes I had with my students from the very first trip. The environments on these trips easily lend themselves toward the formation of lasting friendships because students feel more able to let their guard down and be themselves. In a generation that values authenticity so much, camps and mission trips are a great place to share laughs and find meaningful relationships with other teens.

Spiritual Development -

It can be no surprise that an event that is designed around worship, Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and serving others often leads to spiritual growth. We spend intentional time in God’s creation, saturate our hearts and minds in God’s Word, and really focus on what it means to Love God and Love Others the way Jesus taught us to. Students and adults alike will often walk away from these distraction free experiences on a “spiritual high.” But they also leave with tools to help nourish and continue that spiritual growth.

Summer really is one of my favorite times of year in youth ministry. For many teens, the lessons learned and the friends made at camp and on mission trips continue to benefit their spiritual and social development throughout the rest of their lives. I hope you will prayerfully consider if one or more of our summer experiences is the right fit for your youth. If you don’t have a youth, I would invite you to pray with me over all the students and adults that will take part in these events this summer. If you’d like to know more about one or more of the trips, you can contact me at SusannaW@nhumc.org.

SAVE THE DATES!

- HURRICAN IDA DISASTER RELIEF MISSION TRIP
JUNE 5-10 FOR COMPLETED GRADES 8-12
- HIGH SCHOOL CAMP IN GLORIETA, NEW MEXICO JUNE 19-25 COMPLETED GRADES 9-12
- CITY CAMP HERE AT NHUMC JULY 5-8
COMPLETED GRADES 5-8
- MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP AT CAMP EAGLE JULY 24-28 COMPLETED GRADES 6-8

Children's Ministry

Weekly Programing

Join us on Sundays from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for Sunday School. We have classes for all ages, and nursery care is available for children 4 and younger. Drop off for Sunday School is in the Children's wing starting at 9:30 a.m. and nursery care for kids 4 and younger. We also offer childcare during the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services for kids 2nd grade and younger.

Easter Family Celebration

Saturday, April 9
2:00-4:00 p.m.

FUN FOR EVERYONE!



All families are invited to join us at NHUMC to celebrate the joy of Easter at our Easter Family Celebration! There's something for everyone, from food trucks, a Corn Hole Tournament to crafts and inflatables. There will also be an Egg Hunt for kids 5th grade and younger starting at 3:30 p.m. Bring your Easter Baskets! We also have opportunities for you to volunteer for this event. If you would like more information, please contact Katherine Reed at KatherineR@nhumc.org to hear about ways you may come serve!

5th Grade Celebration May 20, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

All graduating 5th graders are invited to join us for a celebration of your time in Children's Ministry! We will be having a pool party hosted by the Myer's family. Invitations will be sent directly to parents of the 5th graders in May. RSVPs will be required. Contact Katherine Reed for questions!

NHUMC VBS 2022

June 13-17

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Online
registration
continues through
Sunday, June 5

Are you ready for a great adventure to the American Southwest? Come explore and celebrate the greatness of our God at Monumental VBS this summer! VBS is open to kids ages 3 years old (must be potty trained) through 5th grade. There will be games, crafts, Bible stories, sciences experiments and more! You can register for VBS online by visiting the Church website and clicking on the VBS banner. Register before June 5, to make sure you get a spot!

Want to volunteer for VBS? You can also register to volunteer on the website. If you would like more information contact Katherine Reed at KatherineR@nhumc.org.



DAY CAMP NHUMC

June 27-July 1

Register NOW! NHUMC.org

Northern Hills is partnering for a second summer with Eagle Lake Camps for an awesome week of Day Camp hosted at Northern Hills UMC on the 1604 Campus. Eagle Lake Camp invites kids 6-12 years old, for a week of adventure and excitement, as well as a chance to build relationships with Jesus and others! There will be games, crafts, inflatables, Bible study time, and so much more! The cost of camp is \$225 per child. Scholarships are available! If you have any question or need more information, contact Katherine Reed at KatherineR@nhumc.org or 210-654-0881, ext. 209. You can register by visiting the Church website and clicking on the Eagle Lake Camp banner.

Continuing into Lent

PLACES of the PASSION



Join us during this season of Lent as we continue our Places of the Passion Sermon Series.

March 20: Week 3 - Gethsemane
March 27: Week 4 - The Courtyard
April 3: Week 5 - Pilate's Judgment Hall

Holy Week:

April 10: Bethphage (Palm Sunday)
April 14: The Upper Room (Holy Thursday)
April 15: Golgotha (Good Friday)
April 17: The Garden Tomb (Easter)

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 14
Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 15
Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 17
In person and live online
1604 Campus
7:00 a.m., Outdoor Sunrise Service
8:30 a.m., Traditional in the Sanctuary
11:00 a.m., Contemporary in the Worship Center

In person only
11:00 a.m. Tradition in the Sanctuary

Ministry Center Campus
In person and live online
1:00 p.m., La Roca (Bilingual)

Off Site
Community Easter Celebration Worship
7:00 a.m., LC Rutledge Apts.

Announcements

Easter Family Celebration

Saturday, April 9
2:00-4:00 p.m.

FUN FOR EVERYONE!



Blood Mobile

Sunday
April 10
8:30-12:30 p.m.

1604 Campus Parking Lot

Save the Date!

Let's Celebrate!

20th Anniversary of Northern Hills UMC Relocation

Saturday, April 30

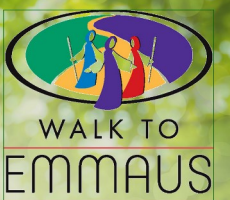
More details coming soon.

Ladies' Walk to Emmaus #211

May 19-May 22, 2022

Well Spring Retreat Center, Blanco, Texas

For more information go to NHUMC.org



Don't miss out...
space is limited.
Enroll now!

Beatitudes Prayer Walk

The Beatitudes Prayer Walk is a half-mile, eight-station trail on the 1604 campus, freely open to everyone seven days a week during daylight hours. The trailhead begins at the cargo container on your right as you enter the campus.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 1, 9:45 a.m.
Beatitudes Prayer Walk Consecration
part of the 20th anniversary celebration
of the 1604 campus.

Thursday, May 5, (sunrise to sunset)
National Day of Prayer

The church and broader community are welcome to come walk the trail and pray anytime during the day; members of the prayer walk team will be on site to facilitate and answer questions. May 5, 2022 is also the exact 20th anniversary of the 1604 campus, so you are also welcome to come pray for the ongoing ministries of NHUMC as you walk.

These reflections and prayers are arranged in eight parts, corresponding to the eight stations of the trail. At each station you'll find two QR codes, one for the beatitudes reflection and another for the rotating reflection that month. Scan the desired QR code with your smart phone to load the devotional text, or visit the church office during office hours for a paper flyer (all reflections are available in both English and Spanish).

If you would like more information, to volunteer, or to financially support the ongoing development of this project, contact Todd Phillips at texasvettwp@gmail.com.



If you would like to dedicate an engraved brick that will be placed near the trailhead, those are available with donations of \$75 or more. For more information about the bricks, contact Claire Boland at cboland63@aol.com.



Souper Bowl Sunday was SUPER!

THANK YOU CHURCH!

If you missed the STATS at Church on the Sunday after the Souper Bowl Sunday, here they are:

of jerseys worn: 411
of can of soup collected: 4748
of dollars collected: \$2,634.00
(which equals 13,170 cans of soup purchased from the food bank)

GRAND TOTAL

OF CANS OF SOUP = 17,918

Pastor Lupina's challenge to the congregation to collect 2022 cans of soup was shattered.



Ministries & More

New Area of Congregational Care

Are you looking for a way to volunteer from home? Do you like to make phone calls? We have church members who can no longer attend church services and may not be able to watch online. A phone call or a card monthly would help brighten their day. Contact Janice Cooper at 210-654-0881, ext. 226 or email Reception@nhumc.org for more information.

Grief Support

We now have information available about grief support in the loss of a spouse or other family members. This includes small group support and short-term classes. If you would like more information for yourself or a friend contact Janice Cooper at 210-654-0881, ext. 226 or email Reception@nhumc.org.

Caregiver Support Group

A caregiver provides assistance in meeting the daily needs of another person. Many people may find themselves caring for a family member or friend in some way or another, which can be rewarding but stressful. NHUMC and The Vine Wellness Group hosts a monthly virtual support group for caregivers on Zoom, where attendees can share and support each other with information, fellowship, and prayer. For information or to attend a meeting contact Todd Phillips at texasvettwp@gmail.com.



Moving On

The Moving On group is back!!! They are a group of widows and widowers that meet once a month for lunch and great fellowship. All newcomers are welcome to join. Call Maxine Webber at 210-451-9162 for more information. The scheduled lunches are listed below:

April 16 - Thai Chili
May 21 - Alamo Cafe
June 18 - Delicious Gardens

Women's Exercise Class

This class is completely free and being held on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., at the Ministry Center. This class is a mixture of Zumba and strength training and is available for all levels of fitness. For more information contact Abby Kurth at kurthlink@sbcglobal.net or 210-392-5506.

Health Coaching

Would you like to learn how to make healthy habits stick? Those interested can contact Abby Kurth, kurthlink@sbcglobal.net or call 210-392-5500 about a FREE 5-session, group health coaching, at the Ministry Center. Days and times would be determined by interested participants.

Healthy Resources

Health and Wellness, and Diabetes Self-Management classes are available online through the City of San Antonio. Check <https://diabeteshelpsa.com> for more information. If there is interest, an on-site class at the Ministry Center is being explored.

Birthday Card Ministry

Our Birthday Card Ministry is back on campus! Join this group on the last Thursday of each month, 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area, to help address and sign birthday cards. All are invited!



The Dudley Update....

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, I'm reminded of the way this God works with the church accomplishes His work with the resources he provides, though His people. *"Give us this day our daily bread."* Matthew 6: 11

During the pandemic, several times we pray to the Lord to be able to sustain our ministry and employees. He blessed us, as we have been able to retain all our staff, as well as hire a Director of Media and an assistant, a Director of Traditional Music, and a new Director of Youth Ministry. Together our in-person and on-line worship attendance matches our pre-pandemic numbers. Further, we are reaching an international audience that we could not dream of before. We are quickly running out of rooms for our adult Sunday school rooms and Worship on Wednesday hybrid format is attracting more worshipers than we have seen in years for our midweek offering. We believe we are entering into a season of Growth at Northern Hills.

How has this happened? What is the support that has sustained us? The answer is simple: your steady tithes and offerings sustain His ministry here. Our budget depends on weekly gifts and needs to grow over the next year to meet the ministry goals, we believe the Lord is calling us to. For this reason, we are stepping out in faith to plan new endeavors and meet obligations in our 2022 budgets. As you contemplate your 2022 budget, we ask that you prayerfully consider worshiping here with your tithes and offerings.

We thank the Lord and pray for your continued support of the multitude of ministries at the 1604 and Ministry Center campuses. We pray that Lord will continue to grow us and be the Beacon of Light for His Ministry.

Pastors Patrick's Pen

Your Eggplant Parmesan is a disgrace to this house!

One of my favorite sitcoms of all time is Seinfeld. I feel it is awesome. I own a poster copy of "The Kramer", I own every season on DVD (bought before blue rays became affordable) and I have read books about the show. Yes, I am a nerd. The show is a breakthrough because it was the first show where the main characters display almost no moral compass but have a type of popular scruples. Case in point: in one episode the gravest offense is to be guilty of picking one's nose. While lying, cheating, making fun of someone is only offensive if one gets caught and society decides that your conduct was unacceptable.

One of my favorite characters is Frank Costanza, played by the amazing Jerry Stiller. The character speaks to me because he reminds me of me, and not in a good way. I like Frank because he loves those around him, but his anger gets in the way: One time telling his wife "Your meatloaf is mushy, your salmon croquettes are oily, and your eggplant parmesan is a disgrace to this house." He even goes as far as to make up a holiday: Festivus. Where the capstone to the celebration is the "Airing of Grievances." When you tell your loved ones all the ways they have disappointed you. In the final season of the series Frank gets help.... kind of. He sees a professional about his anger and is given the prescription to yell "Serenity Now" whenever he gets angry. This of course does not work and causes much consternation in the coincidental humor that is makes Seinfeld amazingly entertaining.

I have always liked the idea of serenity: a calm that surpasses understanding and situation. I find that a time of prayer and meditation can bring my day to a pause. Allowing me to find serenity, even when the circumstances of my life feel like they are going crazy, and the problems are stacking up. I have also observed prayer and scripture as a serenity supplying power when believers are entering into a difficult season. So, while I think yelling "Serenity Now" won't help you. I think you can find Serenity now if you know where and how to look for it.



Pastor Abdon

As we continue to celebrate Northern Hills' 20th year at our 1604 campus and our 5th year at the Ministry Center, we will also be celebrating the 6th summer that we have been hosting Project Transformation (PT) at the Ministry Center. Since the summer 2017 Northern Hills has been a PT Site Church supporting this great program that focuses on improving children's literacy.

As I was thinking about our history with PT, it dawned on me that the youngest children who participated in our first year of PT are now entering middle school; the oldest are now in high school. In a few years some of these PT alums could become college interns serving in the program. That is amazing!

Many of our Reading Buddies have been faithfully devoting their time each summer to help the children of our community improve their reading skills and prepare them for school. In a few years some of our reading buddies could be serving alongside the children they helped teach to read. That is something that I look forward to sharing with you someday.

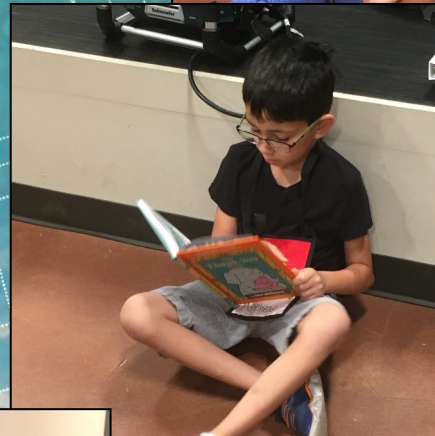
This year our program begins June 8 and continues through July 28 and caring volunteers are needed to read with children in grades 1-6, one-on-one, each day for 30 minutes per child. Volunteers can sign-up for one day or multiple days throughout the summer and no prior experience is needed! Please consider investing in the children of our community this summer. For more information, please contact Janice Cooper at Reception@nhumc.org or Stephanie Negron at StephanieN@nhumc.org.

Blessings,
Abdon



Project Transformation

April will be promotion month for Project Transformation. We will be signing people up to donate supplies, purchase books, volunteer as reading buddies, reading testers, prayer partners and greeters. Project Transformation is our 8- week summer reading day camp in June and July at the Ministry Center. We also have room on our steering committee if you would like to become more involved in Project Transformation. Commitment is individual to accommodate your summer schedule. For more information or questions contact Janice Cooper at Reception@nhumc.org or Stephanie Negron at StephanieN@nhumc.org.



**Project
Transformation
through
the years**



**Reading Buddies After school
Homework Help**

