



2022

AUG/SEPT

NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST FROM THE CHURCH:

- Letter From the Pastor - 2*
- Christian Education - 3*
- VBS 2022 - 4-5*
- Grandies in Christ - 6*
- Sonshine Friends - 7*
- Appreciation - 8*
- Church Committees - 9*
- Events - 10-11*
- Connect with Us - 12*

SERMON SERIES

Stories Jesus Told

- Sept 11 The Story of What NOT To Do
- Sept 18 Unacceptable Losses
- Sept 25 Great Story... Surprise Ending
- Oct 2 Faith, Yeast, Eating, Living
- Oct 9 The Story of Nagging



NURSERY UPDATE

In June, Pam Turner and Ann Hartsfield gave the church nursery a facelift. They made it more cheerful by adorning a wall with a rainbow and clouds. Many improvements have been made to the nursery over the past few months. Drop by and see what the children get to experience on Sunday mornings.



cross tracks CHURCH

 A United Methodist Community



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MICHELE

Back to school...back to routines...back to church!

Back in the OLD days I hosted a brunch for other moms on the first day of school. As soon as I got home from delivering them to their respective schools I would do my "back to school" dance and then start setting out the food. Don't get me wrong - every one of us who gathered for, and celebrated at, the brunch LOVED being moms and we loved being around our children. But after three months of a summer "schedule" we were all ready to return to the routines and rhythms of the school year.

This year I enjoying looking at "First Day of School" pictures and posts on Facebook. I can't get enough of the picture of the kids in the school uniforms, or special First Day outfits. I think I stopped and looked at every single one! Oftentimes they are holding signs like this (and I read every word!):



I noticed a new trend this year where parents posted their before and after photos. The elementary pictures were the best! At the start of the day, the children looked beautiful and practically perfect. But their pictures when at the end of the day were priceless - one young man was missing one shoe and sock!! Back to school is a great thing...exhausting but great.

September marks the return to a more normal schedule. A normal schedule offers us the opportunity to plan our time and set our priorities, knowing full well that life is always full of surprises and unexpected events. As you begin to set your schedule I hope you create space for being faithful to God's expectation for your time and for your spiritual growth!

Although many of the Old Testament laws for the sabbath may seem foreign to us, one of the things I appreciate about how the Jewish people lived out their understanding of Sabbath Law is how it affected their entire week. For example, in order to not cook on the sabbath, the Jewish people had to prepare meals ahead of time and prepare meals that didn't require heating up. While they were preparing the meals, they were thinking about the sabbath and about God.

As we kick off a new school year (even if we haven't been on a school schedule for decades), we have the opportunity to reorganize our schedules...our time. We can experience that same sense of considering God while we are doing what is necessary to carve out special time that is dedicated to God.

Can you set aside time in your week to attend a small group? We have two Sunday morning small groups that meet at 9:00 (we'd love to start more if you are interested!) and Disciple Bible Study will begin Sept. 18 at 6:00. This class will be limited to 12 people who will be committed for 40 weeks. If not these things, what will you do this year to get back in God's Word?

Wishing you a season of fresh starts and God's presence,

Pastor Michele





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



In anticipation of growth in the Children's Sunday School, come Fall 2022 we will have two classes: Pre-K through 1st grade, and 2nd through 5th grade. To allow our Children's Sunday School teachers to be spiritually fed as well, in an adult class, we would like to have teams of 4 adults for each of the two classes and rotate teachers. We

need a total of 8 teachers! So far we have 5 teachers and 3 substitutes. There are always 2 teachers in a classroom. Are YOU called to serve in this amazing ministry? Curriculum is provided which is very "turnkey". I would love to chat with you about this amazing opportunity! Send me an email to schedule a time.

Teresa - ChristianEducation.CTC@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Children ages 4 years old through 5th grade began this summer a 3 year Cokesbury curriculum called "Grow, Proclaim Serve". In this curriculum children will explore families in the Bible, learn how today's faith families care for children as they grow, build loving relationships, and find out what it means to be part of God's family!

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL



Youth Sunday School (6th-12th grades) continues with their weekly studies from "The Thread: Discovering the Thread of the Gospel Through the Big-Picture Story of the Bible". This Bible study curriculum teaches students God's story and how He wove His thread of love through every page of it.

LIFE CLASS continues their study of "Life Lessons from 1 & 2 Peter"



Has your peace been stolen? Dreams crushed? Hope lost? Life has a way of not turning out the way we want. The disciple Peter knew what it was like to go through tough times. He endured threats, punishment, time in jail, beatings, and false words. He had seen enough to know how to stay strong in tough times. So he wrote a survival manual to show how we should act and respond when life isn't fair. His words of wisdom are beacons of hope for making it through hard times. Peter's counsel may surprise you. But it may be just what you need to sustain you when you find that you are between the rock and a hard place.

F.R.O.G. CLASS is finishing up "The Wesley Challenge."



The Wesley Challenge is about going beyond words to develop the spiritual habits, practices, and actions that can lead toward a thriving Christian life. Using the twenty-one questions developed by John and Charles Wesley, you'll be challenged to work with one question a day for twenty-one days. For each question you'll receive a few practical ideas to help you develop a healthy, sustainable rhythm of faithful Christian living.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The sounds of joyous voices, exciting upbeat music, and smells of great food filled the Worship Center during VBS 2022! 58 students registered and we had 40 volunteers! The sets were amazing, creating a great backdrop for Pastor Michele in her suit of armor! Thanks to everyone at Cross Tracks for all you did to make VBS 2022 such a success! We have already begun talking about VBS 2023!

~Teresa Kingsbury

Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God.



Our youngest participant at VBS 2022

“

BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS POWER.

Ephesians 6:10

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Snack Supper



GAMES WITH PASTOR MICHELE

Celebration Sunday



Many thanks for all you did to make VBS a success!
I know it's been almost two months since we met at the North Castle, but we're continuing to witness the fruits of the seeds sown that week.
We're continuing to see some of those new faces at church and hear great stories from those who attended.
Extremely grateful,
Pastor Michele



Music



Grandies for Christ

Connect with the Young-at-Heart (those 50+) Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Meet us at Cross Tracks Church, 101 Church Street in Liberty Hill.

As part of their ministry, Grandies sign and send greeting cards with inspirational messages. In the summer, Grandies also work to make available snack packs for children who may not otherwise have enough food when school isn't in session. They continue their support of the schools throughout the year.

We also support the work of Operation Liberty Hill with a once a month food pantry drive. Collections happen on the first Sunday of the month!

We are NOT all work and no play! The after-meeting games allow us more time to socialize.

Come see what we are all about,
Wednesdays at 10:00 am!

Sonshine Friends

Remarkable things happen when our community comes together! Learning is about so much more than words. At Sonshine Friends Preschool, we focus on the whole child. We encourage our preschool students to take the lead—to ask questions, offer ideas, explore, use all their senses, try new words and sounds, and to be creative in all sorts of ways! To prepare for this school year, the church members, parents, and teachers came together to build a whole new learning environment to take this kind of learning outside!

Thank you all for your continued love, support and prayers. God is doing great things in and through our preschool and He has provided us with an amazing teaching staff to greet the students and the new school year with Sonshine!



APPRECIATION



Thank you to all who stayed after church on July 24 to assemble benches for Sunshine Friends preschool. With so much participation, 10 benches were assembled in short order. Your efforts are GREATLY appreciated!

JOHN WILLIAM SNELL

Church Members,

Thank you so much for the book and Bible you gave me for graduation. It's going to come in handy in my life!

*Gratefully,
Will*

From John William Snell:

Church Members,

Thank you so much for the book and Bible you gave me for graduation. It's going to come in handy in my life!

*Gratefully,
Will*

In early August, the Cross Tracks Project Linus group was highlighted in an article in the Liberty Hill Independent.

Follow the link below to view the article, which includes a photo of the members creating blankets.

https://www.lhindependent.com/news/a-quilt-is-like-a-hug/article_7f7514e6-14d5-11ed-ae9d-57a722f25c62.html

CHURCH COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amazon Smile

Cross Tracks Church received \$53.49 on purchases made between January 1st through March 31st in the Amazon Smile Program. Imagine what this contribution would grow to if every church member used Amazon Smile during their check out.

Navigate to <https://smile.amazon.com> before you check out, and Amazon will make a donation to Cross Tracks at NO COST to you!

Parsonage Sprint Results

25 donors contributed \$67,345 to the parsonage sprint fundraiser. The minimum donation was \$100 and the average was \$2,693.

The new parsonage was acquired debt-free, and Jasper approves of his new digs.



Looking For New Members!

The Finance Committee is seeking new members for 2023. There is no need for an accounting/finance background! Just bring sound decision-making input to the team managing church financial matters.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

UM ARMY

UM ARMY is an opportunity for youth and adults to experience Christian growth through mission, worship, and fellowship.

For youth having completed 6th -12th grade May 2023, and adults

There will be fundraisers to assist in covering the cost.



Community Events

AUG/SEPT
2022 | 10

Did you know that Cross Tracks hosts many different events open to members of the community? We are always looking for opportunities to do more community outreach. If you have ideas for opportunities, let us know.

RECENT EVENTS

Boy Scout Merit Badge School

Eagle Scout Ceremony for Connor Ford

Our Village Ability Center Adult Day habilitation for adults with special needs

Operation Back to School



RECURRING EVENTS

Yoga Community Practice by Stacy

M-W-F at 7 PM

Continues to support health & happiness for our new Yoga Community.

Come to get refreshed, stretched, rid of stresses & gain relaxation.

Cub Scouts

Boy Scouts

Hwa Sun Martial Arts

SPEAKING OF EAGLE SCOUTS...

Once again, our church has been blessed with the fruits of an Eagle Scout project. Reagan McAnally chose to make improvements to our prayer garden as his project. He built 6 additional benches, refurbished existing benches, extended the walkway all the way to the parking area, and added barriers to keep the walkway rocks contained. Our prayer garden is now more accessible.

Thanks to Jim Turner for helping coordinate this project, and HUGE THANKS to Reagan for choosing us as his beneficiary!



Community Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Things Medicare Workshop repeat performance, hosted by Emily Hanson of Hanson Insurance.

This will be an evening workshop on September 12 at 7:00 PM. Brochures are available in the church lobby.



Trunk or Treat



We are tentatively planning Trunk or Treat for Saturday, October 29th. We will be surveying the area churches to see what night they are planning in hopes we could make this a community event. Start imagining how you can decorate your vehicle!



Estate Sale

Cross Tracks will be having an Estate, Vintage, Treasure and Stuff Sale on November 4 & 5, 2022. We will be accepting donations for this sale the week before the event. All profits will be going to the Chapel Restoration Project.

We will also be offering spaces for church members and the community to rent. We will have table-sized spaces and larger booth-sized spaces. This will be a great benefit to those who are not able to have sales in their neighborhood. If you purchase a spot you will then be able to sell your own items and keep your own profits.



\$25 - 6 foot table space
\$100 - booth

We will advertise to the community, yet we want to give our church families first option for sale spaces. If you are interested in a space please let Pam Turner know before September 23.

We will also be looking for volunteers the day of the sale as well as for preparing for the event. Time to start getting your treasures ready
- Pam Turner

Chocolatier

An award-winning chocolatier will hold a workshop on November 10 at 7:00 PM.

There will be carefully planned education and chocolate tastings. Limited space is available. So, tickets will be required. More information to come soon.





THINGS WE DO

Connect with us

Administration

Trustees - mow the grass, care and maintenance of buildings and everything in them, prepare for future growth. Talk to Frank Funk

Finance - manage the budget, make financial decisions for ministry and future growth. Talk to Spencer Kendall.

Internal Ministries

Children's Team - coordinate ministries (find leadership for Sunday School, VBS, etc.), build and support connections with the preschool, create a spirit-filled space for our children, dream big dreams for our future. Talk to Pam Turner or Courtney Pyle

Youth Team - support youth Sunday School, Sunday evening Youth, mission trips, retreats, and more. Talk to Ann & Michael Hartsfield

Christian Ed - plan, implement, and support opportunities for adults to grow in wisdom and in faith. They are also invested in creating multi-generational opportunities.

Talk to Teresa Kingsbury

Congregational Care - coordinate the Coffee bar on Sunday mornings, provide support and care of our family of faith (provide meals for hospital stays, births, etc., reach out to members who might need extra care). Talk to Cristy Browning

Grandies - Our older and wiser members gather each week to send cards, fellowship, and prepare their mission projects. Talk to Ella Williams.

Worship - Plan and prepare for all aspects of worship (order of worship, music, children's connection, special services, visual components, etc.). Talk to Angie Nicholson.

External Ministries

Outreach Team - Creating opportunities to serve, connect with, and invite the community of Liberty Hill. Talk to Anthony Buck

Missions Team - Meeting the physical needs (ramps, home rehab, flood remediation, etc.) of our community and beyond. Talk to Mike McCown.