

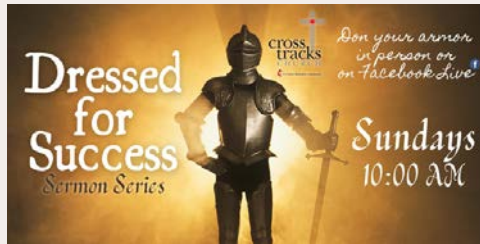
July 2022 Newsletter



Current Sermon Series

Dressed for Success (VBS)

- 7/10: The Fight & the Fortress
- 7/17: Dressed for Success
- 7/24: Put a Bow on It



Next Sermon Series

Last Splash of the Summer:
Stories of Water That Give Us Life

- 7/31: Diving in the Deep End
- 8/07: Wading in Fear
- 8/14: Drink to Soothe the Soul
- 8/21: Beach Breakfast Surprise



Summer News

- 1 - Letter From the Pastor
- 2 - Christian Education
- 3 - Pentecost
- 3 - Julia's Painting
- 4 - Pathway to the Parsonage
- 5 - Outreach Committee
- 6 - Blessing the Linus Blankets
- 7 - In Our Community

Welcome Our New Members

- Callie Dickens
- Judy Hart
- Maureen Stroup
- Scott Woodings
- Richard Ybarra

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

JUNETEENTH, JULY 4TH, AND GOD'S GIFT OF FREEDOM

PASTOR MICHELE LOTT

I love that Juneteenth has become a national holiday and that it falls 15 days before July 4th. I love the invitation for us to consider how freedom is intended for all people but that there are times when we see/expect our own freedom while inhibiting the freedom of others. These thoughts and historical reflection is not necessarily a comfortable space in which to rest for a couple of weeks, but it is an important one. Our celebrations on July 4th are a reminder that we have proven that when we work together, we can fight for freedom and a nation that is free from oppression. It is important for us to hold both these truths about our people together.

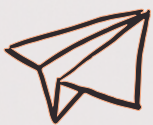
But, even more important than all that, as children of God, we are also invited to primarily focus on the freedom that God provided and continues to offer through Jesus Christ. This is what we are called to put our faith, trust, and action into. Jesus' life and death offers us:

- Freedom to live as the perfected version of ourselves. We might still face the consequences of our sins or mistakes, but they don't determine who we are or how God might use us today or in the future. We are no longer ruled/controlled/motivated by those things that have scarred us or who people believe us to be. We are a new creation who has the power and ability to live as a righteous child of God
- Freedom to break the yoke of ancient laws that don't allow us to love God and love our neighbor. A perfect example is Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan. The priest and the Levite were both responsible for leadership in the temple. They had to remain clean in order to offer their services and provide a way for everyone to be righteous before God. They had to stay faithful to godly service at the expense of caring for the person in front of them. You and I have the authority to love God and love people without doing what appears to be "right" in scripture. This is a powerful, world-changing freedom that requires incredible understanding of God's love and Jesus' teaching.

Freedom is a gift that demands our dedication to intentional faithfulness and offers the potential for creating kingdom-building relationships. Let us engage our freedoms for God!

Celebrating national freedom that is intended for all and spiritual freedom available for the world,

Pastor Michele



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



It is great seeing new faces in our Sunday School Classes! 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! 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

has just begun 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

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 just started a new series "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 continues working their way thru "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.

Pentecost

On Pentecost Sunday, Pastor Michele taught us about experiencing God through the Holy Spirit. We learned how when we spread the news of Jesus, it spreads God's seeds like blowing on a dandelion.

She told us that we need to be open so the Holy Spirit can come into our lives. She taught us that the work of

the Holy Spirit is not always tidy, but it can be fun and exciting - and a little messy. She demonstrated the messiness by adding Mentos to a bottle of Big Red. We heard that we are like the Big Red; we can't be fully effective by ourselves, and we need the Holy Spirit, like the Mentos, to bring the power and excitement.



Julia's Painting Red Silk



We are fortunate to have so many talents in our congregation. On May 15, during the Embracing Messiness: The Art of Life sermon series, one of those talents was on display as Julia Kendall created a beautiful painting right before our eyes. Her finished painting, which she calls Red Silk Skies, is on display in the lobby. Make sure to check it out!



Pathway to the Parsonage

Many thanks to everyone - every step along the journey - who made it possible for us to purchase the new parsonage at 425 Drystone Trail!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to prepare the Deep Lake house to be ready to sale.

Thank you to everyone who looked for documents to support our payment of the retired lien against that property.

Thank you for the people who were diligent about finding a solution when the housing prices skyrocketed.

And THANK YOU to this amazing congregation who found the means to raise \$50,000 in order to purchase our new home!! This was an amazing effort that proves we can do anything we put our hearts, minds, and efforts towards!

We will be hosting an Open House in the next few weeks to celebrate and share our newest church outpost.



Outreach Committee



MEDICARE MINGLE WORKSHOP

On 6/27 a day-time informational meeting from an independent agent in Liberty Hill. All attendees benefited from this informative meeting.

**** Requests for an evening workshop will be planned soon.**

YOGA WITH STACY

M-W-F @ 7:00pm

Stacy encourages and supports each participant at all levels. Some are feeling benefits already. Better sleep and better stretch along with a devotional focus for your soul. Help your body and soul and come join in our Newly Formed Yoga Community w/ Stacy soon.





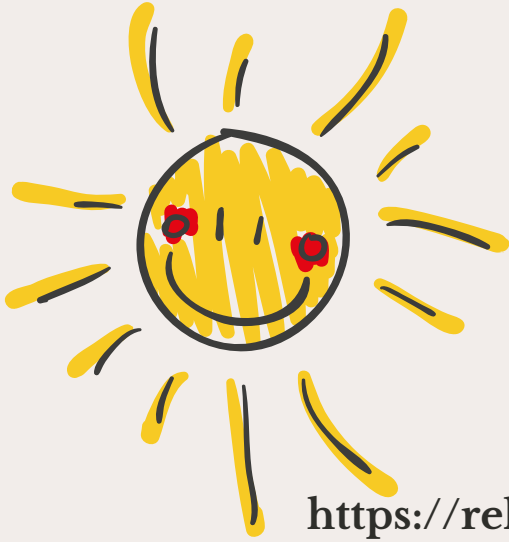
On Mothers Day this year we blessed and prayed over 80 quilts and blankets. These were all delivered to Linus Central Texas to be placed in the hands of children all over the area. In 2021 Linus delivered 4,782 quilts and blankets to children in foster care, hospital emergency rooms, crisis centers and shelters. To date 452 quilts have been delivered to Uvalde with more coming before the start of school. It is truly a mission of love to be able to gift these treasures to local children to add security and a warm hug.



Linus Blankets



In Our Community



Our new music garden is in the news!

Religion News Service published an article about our new outdoor music garden and Louine Noble's contributions to our church. You can read the article at:



<https://religionnews.com/2022/05/06/religious-groups-are-making-a-joyful-noise-with-outside-instruments/>

Thank You From The Hope House

Dear Members of Cross Tracks Church;

On behalf of all of us at Hope House, we want to send you a huge **THANK YOU** for sending us the \$385.00 donation. We are so grateful to you for thinking about us again and for helping us take care of God's special children.

This is a labor of love that we cannot accomplish without such support. We want each of you to know how much we appreciate this gift.

Thank you all again for being a part of our family and doing the Lord's work. I am available anytime for programs, tours or if you need any information.

Blessings,

Erland Schulze
Development Director, Hope House
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