

2023

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST FROM THE CHURCH:

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SERMON SERIES

Imperfect People Following Jesus

- Apr 9 Easter: An Emotional Rollercoaster
- Apr 16 Following Without Knowing
- Apr 23 Followers Who Doubt
- Apr 30 Following While Infighting
- May 7 Followers Who Lack Confidence
- May 14 Followers Who "Need to Fix It"



Moments that Changed the World

- May 21 The Moment They Became Leaders
- May 28 The Moment Everything Became Possible



Upcoming

- June Vacation Destinations
- July Called Together to Serve God

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

Quarterly Newsletters will be sent out in February, May, August, and November of each year. Abbreviated newsletters may still be expected to highlight events and special projects throughout the year.

cross
tracks
CHURCH

 A United Methodist Community

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MICHELE



Ecclesiastes 3:1

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.

SEASONS AND SONSHINE FRIENDS

On Tuesday, May 17th, the Church Board took the difficult vote to close operations of Sonshine Friends Preschool at the end of this year. This has been an important ministry of the church for many years. We reopened after Covid, which was not possible for many preschools and child care centers. Our teachers and director were committed to maintaining a premium preschool that equipped young learners for kindergarten while offering them the love and acceptance of Jesus and a good foundation in Bible stories.

Over the past year and a half, the efforts to keep the preschool fully staffed became more and more difficult. In mid-April our director had to resign due to health issues. Pam Turner stepped in immediately to learn everything she could from the director, Amy, so she could fill in until we hired a new director. Spencer Kendall and Mike Bowles also stepped up to share the director responsibilities and keep the preschool running smoothly. They are amazing and we are blessed by their faithfulness and their efforts. They have certainly earned brownie points in heaven!!

At the same time, we began the

search for a new director with great hope, but not much encouragement from professionals about the availability of good directors. After several weeks, we found a woman who had the professional gifts our preschool required and she had a passion for offering the gospel to children and their families. We had found the unicorn! We planned to have a Town Hall meeting with the parents to meet the new director.

Unfortunately, through a series of events, a small group of parents determined they did not approve of the new director and came to the meeting with their own agenda. The meeting did not go well and the director understandably resigned the following morning. To say we are disappointed in this outcome is an understatement!

Without a director, or enough teachers, we are unable to reopen in the fall of 2023.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 comes to mind, especially "a time to be born and a time to die," "a time to tear down and a time to build," "a time to mourn and a time to dance," "a time to tear and a time to mend." As this season ends, we find ourselves mourning the tearing down of a ministry that has blessed

many families. As people of God, we know that the close of this season brings with it the beginning of a new season.

We know that God has called us to ministry to children and youth and that God has a vision for Cross Tracks that will bless the families of our community. We are now called to a season of mending, gathering stones, planting, building, and eventually a time of dancing. The church board was already planning a season of discernment of God's purpose for Cross Tracks. We know that God wants us to have an impact on our community and we want to be faithful.

Our Board, our Children's Ministry Team, and anyone interested in building the future of our ministry for children and youth will begin the process of discerning God's plan and creating the blueprint and infrastructure to make it possible. We look forward to engaging the whole church in our future ministry focus. Check back for God's vision and next steps.

Please join us in prayer,

Pastor Michele



TRUSTEES

Your Trustee team has been hard at work getting the ACs all tuned up (and some substantial repairs), striping the parking lot (to comply with the Fire Inspection), purchasing 2 new ovens and a griddle for the kitchen, updated the sign by the parking lot entrance to reflect our service times, and other small odd jobs.

What we know about that is still on the "fixit / enhancement list": Worship Center Bathroom exhaust fan, re-lamping the Worship Center, reworking the Worship Center Lobby to make it more inviting, and other small projects that will no doubt come up!

If you have any questions or issues, please contact the Trustees @ CrossTracksChurch.Trustees@gmail.com

WORSHIP PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Worship Planning Committee is working on several things coming up soon. We will be blessing the blankets that the Linus folks make on May 7th; May 14th is Mother's Day and we hope to see many mothers in the congregation that day. We will honor our graduates on May 21st, and May 28th is Pentecost, Pastor Michele's favorite Sunday. There will be new and different decorations in the church that day.

In June the UM Army will be doing their mission trip and we hope to have some of the youth tell about their trip on June 25th.

VBS is July 16-20 and we will have VBS Sunday on July 23rd, where you will get to see and hear the children—their music and what they learned in VBS. Also in July will be our next 5th Sunday Potluck on the 30th.

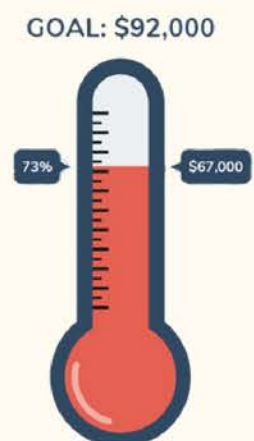
We will be Blessing the Backpacks on August 13th and are working on some other things for the end of summer.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our church budget calls for \$92,000 in general contributions by the end of April. To date, general contributions are only \$67,000. This is a 27% shortfall.

Please consider your gifts to the church. Cross Tracks operates on a shoestring budget with a HUGE reliance on volunteer help. Donations support only the basics: Electricity, insurance, maintenance etc.

Summer will soon be here and historically, contributions drop during the summer months. Now is the time to catch up on your tithing. Your church family is counting on you.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Teresa - ChristianEducation.CTC@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children ages 4 years old through 5 th grade are continuing in their study of a 3-year Cokesbury curriculum called "Grow, Proclaim Serve". In this curriculum the children are exploring 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

During May we will be studying a 4-week series *Struggles* which encourages students to trust God and rely on Him when they face struggles.

- Lesson 1: Don't Let Worry Be a Distraction
- Lesson 2: God Is Faithful In The Midst Of Our Struggles
- Lesson 3: God Turns Our Struggles Into Victory
- Lesson 4: The Potter And The Clay



During June and July, we will be studying an 8-week series *Summer Survival Guide* which teaches students how to grow in their relationship with God this summer no matter what they face.

- Lesson 1: Summer "To-Do" List
- Lesson 2: Time with God Daily
- Lesson 3: Honest Friendships
- Lesson 4: Intentionally Connect with The Church
- Lesson 5: Notice and Serve Others
- Lesson 6: Give To God
- Lesson 7: Share God Stories
- Lesson 8: We're All A Bunch Of Sticks



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023

HERO HOTLINE: CALLED TOGETHER TO SERVE GOD!

JULY 16TH-20TH COST: \$10* REGISTER VIA QR CODE



In the depths of a colorful underground cave, is the beating heart of the hero community, the Hero Hotline Headquarters where everyone's gifts are valued, and every hero has a role to play. Each day at the Hero Hotline Headquarters, superheroes of all ages and abilities answer the call and join the Professor and veteran hero, Super Meer the Meerkat, to provide expert assistance and solutions to Hero Teams everywhere.

*scholarships available

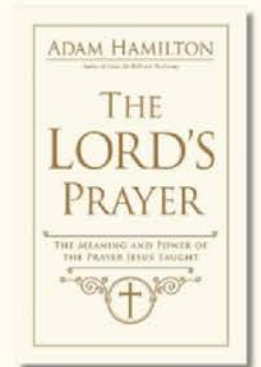
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

F.R.O.G. CLASS recently started a new study *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught* by Adam Hamilton

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. He never intended the Lord's Prayer to be a museum piece, framed and placed on a mantel or in a display case. It was Jesus teaching God's people, through his disciples, how to pray.

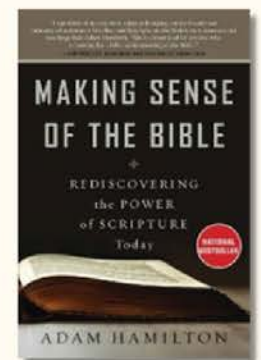
In *The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught*, Hamilton guides us to really know—and really pray—the Lord's Prayer. He explores each of its rich lines and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves through its words. And he teaches us how to use it as a pattern for our own prayer life.



L.I.F.E. CLASS will be starting a new study on April 23rd, *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today* By Adam Hamilton

Denominations from evangelical to mainline continue to experience deep divisions over universal social issues. The underlying debate isn't about a particular social issue, but instead it is about how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing.

In *Making Sense of the Bible*, Adam Hamilton, one of the country's leading pastors and Christian authors, addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. Did God really command Moses to put gay people to death? Did Jesus really teach that everyone who is not a Christian will be assigned to hell? Why would Paul command women to "keep silent in the church?" Were Adam and Eve real people? Is the book of Revelation really about the end times? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? Is the Bible ever wrong? In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses these often-misunderstood biblical themes, leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving.



LINUS CONNECTION



Linus Sunday is May 7 with all our quilts and blankets displayed and prayed over by our congregation. In addition to the blankets you will see we have delivered the following amounts.

- 25 to victims of Uvalde last summer
- 5 baby blankets to newborns born to Sonshine Friends Families
- 4 quilts to local teens and families with crisis
- 3 quilts given to local children at Dell fighting cancer
- The book pillows will be going to the new Dell Children's Hospital in Cedar Park.

We have been an active ministry of CTC since 1999 and average 10 to 12 members twice a month getting together to sew, knit and fellowship. It is our joy to be able to share of quilts and blankets to Linus Connection Central Texas, who will give out thousands of blankets and quilts each year to children.

Consider joining us in this wonderful mission
- Pam Turner and the Linus Team

Market LHTX

Liberty Hill 2023 events

May 6th	9am-2pm	Aug 19th	9am-2pm
	New time/location: Crosstracks Church	Sep 9th	9am-2pm
May 27th	9am-2pm	Sep 23rd	9am-2pm
June 10th	9am-2pm	Oct 7th	10am-2pm
	Our famous Young Entrepreneurs Market	Oct 21st	10am-2pm
Jun 24th	9am-2pm	Nov 11th	10am-2pm
Jul 15th	9am-2pm	Dec 16th	11am-4pm

TO CONTACT THE MARKETLHTX:
LHPOUPMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Liberty Hill Popup Markets

The Market LHTX group asked us to host their popup markets at Cross Tracks Church. The current schedule for 2023 is pictured left. If you would like to do your own booth, they have offered that to church members for FREE. (Free is good, right???)

Look out for more details on the Getting To Know you LH Facebook page.

CROSS TRACKS CHURCH
MAY 2023 | 6

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Armored Sports Camp

CHRISTIAN SPORTS CAMPS FOR KIDS

Through our interactive sports camps, Armored Sports offers daily Bible lessons and memory verses within a fun, safe, and positive environment.

A multi-sport camp consisting of fun games like Dodgeball, Kickball, Capture the Flag, and other games revolving around classic sports like Basketball, Flag Football, and Soccer.

Save the Dates!

JUNE 12-15

9:00AM-1:00PM

AGES 5-12

[www.armored-](http://www.armored-sports.com/camps/crosstracks)

sports.com/camps/crosstracks

Camp Prices Before June 1st- \$125

After June 1st- \$135

UM ARMY -- JUNE 18-24, 2023 -- FREDERICKSBURG, TX

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.



LIFE LINE SCREENING -- JUNE 9, 2023 -- CROSS TRACKS CHURCH

Life Line Screening offers a 4-screening package to provide peace of mind or early detection for risks of stroke and cardiovascular disease. The combination of these tests helps detect problems **before you have symptoms** and while you and your doctor can still take action, so you can keep doing the things you love!

Register now to check the health of your arteries

4 Important Screenings for Only \$149

(Special Package Pricing)

- Carotid Artery Disease
- Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)
- Atrial Fibrillation (AFib)

To register, call 877-792-8479 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC

RECURRING EVENTS

Cub Scouts

Boy Scouts

Hwa Sun Martial Arts



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.