

be MCC



Metropolitan Community Churches

TRANSFORMING OURSELVES AS WE TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

A newsletter from Central Texas MCC

October 2017

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THE PASTOR'S PEN

What does it mean to "be MCC"? Now, more than ever before, we need to lift up the unheard voices in our world, and to put into action our call to be sowers of justice and compassion. God is at work in the world, doing a new thing, and it is up to us to catch up with where the Spirit is moving. It may look very different than what we have done before, but when we dare to act faithfully, we will impact not just our own congregation, but our neighbors, our neighborhood, our wider community. When we experience the powerful blend of spiritual vitality with an outward focus of empowered work for compassion and justice, we are more than a vibrant church, we are the Body of Christ—alive, living out the kin-dom of God, the Beloved Community. Now is the time to consider what new ways God may be calling us to love our neighbor.

What that looks like will come from you, the congregation. But here's the good news: we don't have to do it alone! MCC's Office of Church Life and Health is prepared to assist us with staff and coaches who will be with us every step of the way.

So please be in prayer for our church and its future. Be in prayer for what God has in store for us. The prophet Isaiah, speaking on behalf of God to the people of Israel, said, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19) Be in prayer for what that "new thing" will look like for Central Texas MCC!

Peace and blessings,
Charley

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The following is a tentative list of upcoming church activities and community events. Contact the church for a confirmation of the calendar.

Weekly Events:

- **Central Texas MCC Worship** (1601 Clay Ave.) on Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
- **Live and Let Live AA Group** (4209 N. 27th St.) on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 30 – “*Out of the Darkness*” **Walk to Prevent Suicide** at Brazos Park East. Registration at 6PM. Walk will begin at 7:15PM and end at 9:30PM.

Sunday, October 1 – **Accessibility Sunday**. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sunday, October 1 – **Animal Blessings**. Bring your pet to church for a blessing of the animals!

Saturday, October 7 – **Women’s HIV Support Group**. If you are an HIV+ woman, then join others for a support group followed by a home-cooked meal.

Sunday, October 8 – **Monthly Potluck Social** after worship. Good food, good fellowship!

Tuesday, October 10 – **LGBT Pride Planning Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. in the church Social Hall.

Saturday, October 14 – “*Out on the Brazos*” **LGBTQ Pride Festival** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Northern Gateway Pavilion in Cameron Park.

Thursday, October 19 – **HIV Support Group** at 6:00 p.m. in the Social Hall begins with a home-cooked meal and continues with connection and conversation.

Friday, October 20 – **Book Discussion Group** meets at 3:30 p.m. at Panera Bread for an informal discussion of “News of the World” by Paulette Jiles.

Sunday, October 22 – **Accessibility Sunday**. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall

Sunday, October 29 – **Restaurant Sunday**. Join us after worship for lunch at a local restaurant.

BIRTHDAYS

The following people have birthdays this month. If you have corrections or additions to the birthday list, please call the office at 752-5331 or email us at centexmcc@earthlink.net.

Mary Ann Gilstrap – October 5

Mark Barnett – October 12

D.J. Mueck – October 16

Angel Hernandez – October 24

Brian Snipes – October 24

“Out of the Darkness” Community Walk



The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is the leading national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research, education and advocacy, and to reaching out to people with mental disorders and those impacted by suicide.

The “Out of the Darkness” Walks are proof that when people work together they can make big changes in the world. They are AFSP’s largest fundraiser – they produce millions for suicide prevention programs, unite those who have been affected by suicide, and create communities that are smart about mental health.

Join others for Waco’s “Out of Darkness” Walk at Brazos Park East on **Saturday, September 30**. Check-in and registration begins at 6PM, And the Walk will take place 7:15-9:30PM.

Blessing of the Animals



The blessing of pets and animals is often celebrated on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, or on a Sunday near that date. You are invited to bring your pets on **Sunday, October 1** to church for a very special blessing. The blessing of each animal, by name, means that health, healing and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners. The service will take place at 11AM downstairs in the church Social Hall.

Accessibility Sundays



In an effort to ensure that worship is accessible regardless of mobility challenges, we will be trying on a new thing at Central Texas MCC! On the first and third Sunday of every month, we will be having worship in the Social Hall.

Come and join us! Who knows? You may enjoy the unique style of worship even more than the traditional worship in the sanctuary on the other Sundays!

"Out on the Brazos" LGBTQ Pride Festival



Get ready for Waco's first LGBTQ Pride Festival in about a decade! "Out on the Brazos" LGBTQ Pride Festival, a grassroots event, co-sponsored by local businesses, churches, and organizations, will take place from 11AM to 4PM on **Saturday, October 14** at Northern Gateway Pavilion located on Lover's Leap Road in Cameron Park.

The free event will celebrate the LGBTQ community with food, music, poetry, fun and games for people of all ages. Sponsoring groups will also be present to share information about the services they offer for the LGBTQ community.

Restaurant Sunday



Stick around after worship on **Sunday, October 29** for lunch with friends! The group picks a local restaurant, and then everyone heads over for table-time fellowship!

Learn more about the work of Central Texas MCC online at www.centexmcc.com

Central Texas MCC from the Heart
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