



A newsletter from Central Texas MCC

March 2018

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THE PASTOR'S PEN

For the last several weeks of worship, we have tumbled through the Gospel of John, beholding one miracle after another, encountering one witness after another. We have seen Nicodemus and a Samaritan woman struggle with Jesus' words. We have seen water turned into wine, witnessed a blind man receive sight, and trembled while Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead.

But the pace changes over the next month. In fact, time almost seems to stand still as we join Jesus in the last twenty-four hours of his life. Beginning this coming Sunday with Peter's denial, we will join Jesus at his trial, and eventually witness his crucifixion and death.

Lent is a time of going inward and reflecting on that which separates us from God's love. It's a time of changing direction and renewing our relationship with the One who calls us by name. Join us for worship that calls us to renewal, one that anticipates the hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior!

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, March 3 – Women's HIV Support Group. If you are an HIV+ woman, then join others at 11AM for a support group followed by a home-cooked meal.

Sunday, March 4 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sunday, March 4 – Choir Rehearsal for an Easter special music performance in the Social Hall following a light lunch.

Sunday, March 11 – Potluck Social immediately after worship in the Social Hall. Good food, good fellowship!

Sunday, March 11 – Choir Rehearsal for an Easter special music performance in the Social Hall following the potluck social.

Thursday, March 15 – HIV Support Group at 6PM in the Social Hall begins with a home-cooked meal and continues with connection and conversation.

Thursday, March 15 – CRRC Dinner and Dreamers. Learn more about how to support immigrant youth in Waco. 5:30-7:30 at St. Alban's Episcopal Church Parish Hall. 305 N. 30th Street.

Sunday, March 18 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sunday, March 18 – Lenten Conversation in the Social Hall following a light lunch after worship. The conversation will be based on excerpts from Barbara Brown Taylor's best-selling book, "An Altar in the World."

Sunday, March 18 – Choir Rehearsal for an Easter special music performance in the sanctuary following a light lunch.

Saturday, March 24 – March for Our Lives. Stay tuned for details.

Sunday, March 25 – Lenten Conversation in the sanctuary following a light lunch after worship. The conversation will be based on excerpts from Barbara Brown Taylor's best-selling book, "An Altar in the World."

Sunday, March 25 – Choir Rehearsal for an Easter special music performance in the Social Hall following a light lunch.

BIRTHDAYS

The following people, who join us for worship, 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.

Joy Salvatore – March 1

C.J. Myers – March 18

Tiffani Ellis – March 27

Kathy Kelton – March 27

Scott Giles – March 28

Easter Lily Donations to Benefit Global Justice Institute



When you make a donation for Easter Lilies, your money does amazing things! Last year, your generous Easter Offerings empowered the Global Justice Institute to :

- publish the first book of spiritual reflections for LGBTQI Christians in China to provide a resource for people worshipping in an "underground" context.
- open a computer lab for children in Mtito Andei, Kenya, and saw its first students and hold the first Lesbian retreat in the area, with 10 women in attendance.
- continue its work in Honduras supporting the work of Ecumenicas, as they hold workshops in local neighborhoods to teach women how to advocate for reproductive justice and health care options.
- sponsor a speaking tour for The Rev. Dr. Boon Lin Ngeo in Taiwan regarding marriage

equality.

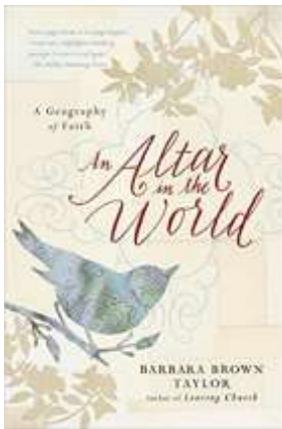
- provide financial support in the aftermath of the hurricane in Puerto Rico, the earthquake in Mexico, for two gay men in Uganda fleeing violence, for a gay activist's mother in Uganda, and to a group in Chechnya helping gay men who have been targeted by the government get to safer housing

This year's goals include, but are not limited to:

- working with a young man to bring GJI and safe worship space to Zimbabwe;
- drilling a well at our Kenya site, which the East African drought has necessitated, to provide clean and consistent water
- partnering with a group in Mexico around work with Chiapas trans women.

By making a donation toward an Easter lily, you will support this critical work accomplished through the Global Justice Institute at a time when the support is needed globally more than ever!

A Lenten Conversation



In Barbara Brown Taylor's book, "An Altar in the World," she reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working and prayer.

You are invited to an after-worship conversation based on excerpts from her book on **Sunday, March 4, 18, and 25**. It's not necessary to have read the book to participate. The conversations will follow a light lunch in the Social Hall and will take place on alternating weeks in the sanctuary and the in the Social Hall.

Our conversations will explore vision (the practice of waking up to God), reverence (the practice of paying attention), incarnation (the practice of wearing skin), community (the practice of encountering others), and prayer (the practice of being present to God).

Easter Choir Rehearsals



This year, we are especially fortunate to have Megan Talley has agreed to direct a choir in a special music performance for Easter Sunday. Megan received a Bachelor of Music in piano performance at Loyola University, a Masters of Music in piano performance at LSU, and a Master of Divinity in church music and composition at Baylor University. She has experience in jump-starting church choirs.

If you are interested in being a part of the Easter choir that Megan will be directing, then stick around after worship for choir rehearsals beginning **Sunday, March 4, 11, 18, and 25**. The rehearsals will follow a light lunch in the Social Hall and will take place on alternating weeks in the sanctuary and the in the Social Hall.

CRRC Dinner and Dreamers Presentation



Have you heard of Dreamers and the Dream Act? Want to learn more about how to support immigrant youth in Waco? Join the Community Race Relations Coalition (CRRC) for a presentation on what's going on now and hear from Dreamers themselves.

This event is free and open to the public. Dinner is provided by the CRRC Board and the Waco Immigration Alliance, with donations accepted. For reservations call 254-717-7903 or email jo@welterfamily.org.

The event will take place on **Thursday, March 15** from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at St. Alban's Episcopal Church Parish Hall (305 N. 30th Street).

March For Our Lives



March For Our Lives is created by, inspired by, and led by students across the country who will no longer risk their lives waiting for someone else to take action to stop the epidemic of mass school shootings that has become all too familiar. In the tragic wake of the seventeen lives brutally cut short in Florida, politicians are telling us that now is not the time to talk about guns. March For Our Lives believes the time is now.

Plans are being made for a March For Our Lives demonstration in Waco on **Saturday, March 24**. Stay tuned, and we'll keep you informed as details arise.

'Our Bible' Bible App Features Diversity and Inclusion



A portion of the mission of the new "Bible App" says: "...Our goal is to untangle the binds that Christian colonizers have spread across the globe over hundreds of years. Through devotionals highlighting pro LGBT, pro-women, and encouraging interfaith inclusivity we hope to provide a tool that is needed to create healthy prayer and meditation habits."

The app includes multiple Bible versions as well as devotionals and other resources from queer-friendly authors including MCC contributors. MCC has a "shelf" in the library; and featured writers include Rev. Dr. Durrell Watkins, Sunshine Cathedral; Rev. Maxwell Reay (and others from Scotland). MCC's resource about Mental Health, produced by the MCC Theologies Team, is also included.

The app is downloadable for iOS or Android phones: <https://www.ourbibleapp.com/app/>.