



A newsletter from Central Texas MCC

October 2018

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THE PASTOR'S PEN

This coming month will mark 50 years that Metropolitan Churches have been transforming lives and transforming the world. Each week's worship in October and the first week of November will be devoted to a separate decade of MCC's existence.

Sunday, October 7: The Open Table. The first week's service is inspired from our first decade: 1968-1978. We gather around the table bringing all we are to our family of choice. We celebrate Christ who invites us to the table and accept the invitation with our fullest of selves. We don't all agree yet, we gather anyway to create a unique, messy, complicated family of believers who comfort and challenge one another. We celebrate the vision of MCC that began in a humble living room and spread throughout the world, as we consider new ways we are all called to invite more family members to the table.

Sunday, October 14: Love. The second week's service is inspired from our second decade: 1978-1988. We remember those who died of AIDS and others who fought to make the leaders of the world name and recognize the AIDS epidemic. We remember the individuals, particularly women, who decided to lead in love rather than fear. We grieve those we loved who were taken from the world. On that day, we wonder how to navigate without our mentors. We build urgency over the health of one's body. Even with improved medication and prevention, responsibility still needs to be exercised to prevent another epidemic. We give thanks and tremendous love for the courageous women who sacrificed and nurtured as they simultaneously fought for recognition and inclusion within MCC. We recognize the ongoing work that exists for gender equality and inclusive love around the world.

Sunday, October 21: Justice. The third week's service is inspired from our forth decade: 1988-1998. We confess that we have not loved with our whole hearts. We have been selfish in what we have done and what we have left undone. Though we have done great things to live into our call to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God," we have a great work do within the walls of our church and in our local and global communities. With God, we lament the world's greed and ways we have stayed silent in the face of oppression and injustice. We humbly ask for forgiveness from God, from one another, and from those we may never know. Throughout this service we will use water as a metaphor for confession, change, and forgiveness.

Sunday, October 28: Hope. The fourth week's service is inspired from our fourth decade: 1998-2008. When Canada became the first country to recognize same-sex marriage, we celebrated in Calgary. Our story continued with a newly elected Moderator installed at the US National Cathedral. We yearn to explore ways that everyone feels welcome at the table, with their fullest selves, particularly our transgender siblings. We celebrate our children and teach them to be great leaders. We hope for the day when there are no wars or violence, no one is left on the margin, and terrorism is a thing of the past.

Sunday, November 4: Faith. The fifth week's service is inspired from our fifth decade: 2008-2018. We've come this far by faith, believing as we do and coming as we are. In our diversity, we honor and celebrate the queer saints of our movement who dared to dream and came together to build community. We lift up those emerging voices who embody and articulate our faith in new ways and set a course for our next 50 years.

I hope that you will join me for worship this coming month. If you do, I think you will be blessed!

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, October 6 – Pet Blessing at 2PM at Cotton Palace Park (1300 Clay Ave.) includes a brief blessings, a St. Francis of Assisi medal and treats for the pets, and snacks and fellowship for the humans.

Saturday, October 7 – Women's HIV Support Group. If you are an HIV+ woman who is looking for support, then join others who meet at 11AM and conclude with a home-cooked lunch.

Sunday, October 7 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Wednesday, October 3 – Pride Planning Meeting for October's Out on the Brazos Pride Event will take at 6:30PM in the Social Hall

Friday, October 12 – Out on Austin, beginning at 6PM at Cultivate 7twelve (712 Austin Ave.), will feature and art auction, raffle, and more.

Saturday, October 13 – Out on the Brazos LGBT Festival. Begins at 11AM at Brazos Park East. Celebrate LGBT Pride! Food, music, entertainment, vendors, fun for the whole family!

Sunday, October 14 – Potluck Social immediately after worship in the Social Hall. Good food, good fellowship!

Thursday, October 18 – HIV Support Group at 6PM in the Social Hall begins with a home-cooked meal and continues with connection and conversation.

Sunday, October 21 – Accessibility Sunday. Worship will take place downstairs in the Social Hall.

Sunday, October 28 – Restaurant Sunday. Join us after worship for food and fellowship at a local restaurant.

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.

Mary Ann Gilstrap – October 5

Mark Barnett – October 12

DJ Mueck – October 14

Brandy Neimeier – October 17

Kasey Neimeir – October 24

Pet Blessing



Weather permitting, a pet blessing open to the public will take place on **Saturday, October 6** at 2PM in Cotton Palace Park (1300 Clay Ave.), with a brief blessing of the pets by Rev. Charley Garrison, pet treats and a St. Francis of Assisi medals for the animals, and snacks and fellowship for the humans.

Out on Austin



Join Waco Pride Network on **Friday, October 12** at 6PM as we kick off this year's Waco Pride with OUT on Austin. The event will feature an art auction, the theme of which is "Finding the Beauty in Grayscale." It will also feature a raffle and refreshments at Cultivate 7twelve; a photo scavenger hunt up and down Austin Avenue' a night out in the welcoming and open environments of the Hightop, Klassy Glass, and Dichotomy; and most importantly, a chance to show your pride in Waco and support for its growing LGBTQ community.

Out on the Brazos



Celebrate LGBT Pride! Food, music, entertainment, vendors, fun for the whole family! Popular singing sensation, Barbie de Facto, will be the headline singer. Singing artists will also include Isis Lee and Heather Ranelle. There will be drag performances as well as motivating speakers. There will be two bounce houses for the kids and lots of information booths and vendors. Food will be provided by local food trucks.

It all takes place at Brazos Park East, beginning at 11AM on **Saturday, October 13** and continues until 4PM.

Restaurant Sunday



Join us after worship on **Sunday, October 28** for Restaurant Sunday. It's a good way to get to know folks better, while checking out the menu from a local restaurant!