



West District News

November, 2018



Friends, I am indebted to my friend Rev. John Wright for this reflection and prayer as we grieve together for those murdered and terrorized last week in three hate crimes that have shaken us as a nation.

As we continue to sit shiva (observe mourning) for those murdered in the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, I offer this prayer composed for Yom HaShoah (the day of remembrance of the Holocaust) by Lord Jonathan Sacks, former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain. For this massacre is, in its own way, a little "holocaust."

"Today, on Yom HaShoah, we remember the victims of the greatest crime of man against man – the young, the old, the innocent, the million and a half children, starved, shot, given lethal injections, gassed, burned and turned to ash, because they were deemed guilty of the crime of being different.

We remember what happens when hate takes hold of the human heart and turns it to stone; what happens when victims cry for help and there is no one listening; what happens when humanity fails to recognize that those who are not in our image are none the less in God's image.

We remember and pay tribute to the survivors, who bore witness to what happened, and to the victims, so that robbed of their lives, they would not be robbed also of their deaths.

We remember and give thanks for the righteous of the nations who saved lives, often at risk of their own, teaching us how in the darkest night we can light a candle of hope.

Today, on Yom HaShoah, we call on You, Almighty God, to help us hear Your voice that says in every generation:

Do not murder.

Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor.

Do not oppress the stranger.

We know that whilst we do not have the ability to change the past, we can change the future.

We know that whilst we cannot bring the dead back to life, we can ensure their memories live on and that their deaths were not in vain.

And so, on this Yom HaShoah, we commit ourselves to one simple act: Yizkor, Remember.

May the souls of the victims be bound in the bond of everlasting life. Amen."

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Blessings and Peace,

Andy

A Christian Greeting



Choosing the Trail:

Robert Frost wrote:

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."

Matthew 7:13-14

"Go in through the narrow gate. The gate that leads to destruction is broad and the road wide, and so many people enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it ."

Which road will you take?

*More of Him, Less of Me,
Gini*

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS **Hill Country/ West Districts**

SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 26, 2019

FUMC Kerrville

Combined District Event Offers Opportunities for Learning

Equipping the Saints 2019 has a great lineup of workshops and classes.

There is something for everyone in your church!#

- This year, E.T.S. will be combined **Hill Country & West Districts** in Kerrville. We have plenty of space for plenty of people!#
- Some of our workshops are “old favorites” and some are brand new and exciting.#
- Every church is invited to share their Mission Journey - posters, displays, power point, etc. Let Pam Elliott at the Hill Country District Office know as soon as possible to reserve your space.#
- Our presenters are a great group of talented and experienced lay people and clergy from around the **Hill Country District** and the **Rio Texas Conference**.#

WATCH FOR UPDATES!

A Prayerful Way Forward

November 3, 2018 10:30AM – Noon

San Angelo: First United Methodist Church

37 E. Beauregard, San Angelo, TX

Announcing a meeting for all interested United Methodists, lay and clergy.

Join West and Hill Country District Superintendent Rev. Andy Smith, along with members of the Rio Texas delegation to the UMC General Conference, for a time of information and prayer regarding the upcoming 2019 Special Session of General Conference (GC'19).

The informational session is for listening, learning, and prayer. It is not intended to be a forum for debate, nor a rally for any position regarding the Way Forward and the church's stance on human sexuality.

Our Rio Texas delegation has just returned from the South Central Jurisdictional General Conference Delegate Gathering held at St. Luke's UMC in Oklahoma City. They will share their insights on what to expect at the GC'19. Decisions made at GC'19 may have great impact on what the United Methodist Church looks like in the future.

Together we will learn about the options for a Way Forward and the challenge that is always before us to increase the witness and ministry of the United Methodist Church.

And, together we will pray, pray, pray for our churches, our communities, the Rio Texas Conference, the General Conference and delegates.

More information can be found at: riotexas.org/gc2019 and umcprays.org.

The Hill Country District will host the event November 10, 2018 at First UMC in Kerrville from 10:30—noon.

Pastors and Professionals Meeting:

The West and Hill Country Districts will come together for the November Pastors and Professionals Meeting. We will meet Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at FUMC in Mason. We will gather at 9:30 am and begin worship at 10:00 am.



ERT Basic Training at Sierra Vista UMC
4522 College Hills Blvd, San Angelo
on November 17, 2018 from
8:00am to 4:00pm

For more information or to register go to:

<https://riotexasresponse.org/ert-basic>

“Are you Ready, Are you Able, Are you Willing?”

There is something for everyone to do.

For questions or concerns, please contact Ginnie Street, Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Training Coordinator at 512-203-7730 or training@riotexasresponse.org

Calendar

- Nov. 3 West District – A Prayerful Way Forward, SA:FUMC, 10:30 – Noon
4 Daylight Saving Time Ends
6 Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC
7-9 Andy – DS Group
10 Hill Country District – A Prayerful Way Forward, Kerrville:FUMC, 10:30 – Noon
12 District Office Closed
14-15 Cabinet Meeting
17 ERT (Early Response Training) Event, Sierra Vista UMC
21-23 District Office Closed for Thanksgiving
27 West and Hill Country Districts Combined Pastors and Professionals Meeting, Mason
- Dec. 4 Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC
6-7 Cabinet Meeting
6-10 Amy – Out
19-31 District Office Closed
- Jan. 1 District Office Closed

West District
Rio Texas Conference
United Methodist Church

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Sunday, November 4, 2018

District Web-Page:

www.umcwayoutwest.org