

The Window

Westminster United Methodist Church



November/December 2016

Worship With Us

9:00 a.m. Contemporary

11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship

Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month.

Grow With Us

Sunday School for All Ages

10:15 a.m.

PowersPoint

We Sow, God Grows Campaign Begins Strong

New and Increased Pledges add \$148,575 to Giving

Westminster outdoes itself in generosity every year and 2017 will be no exception. With two weeks left in our follow up, we already have some exciting news about our pledges:

We have **66 pledges in already**, committing **\$528,000** towards our ministries.

Of those we have **19 NEW PLEDGES** of **\$109,500**

We also have **18 INCREASED PLEDGES** committing **\$39,075** more than last year.

We still have about 30 pledges out from last year that we expect to come back in, adding another potential \$205,000 towards our total pledged giving.

This means that we could potentially have pledges of \$733,000, which would represent a **25% increase over last years' pledges.**

This is a sign of a church that is growing both spiritually and numerically. Families that have increased their pledges are either tithing or growing towards a tithe. This is a sign of spiritual maturity. Receiving 19 new pledges means that new families are coming to Westminster and committing themselves at a high level to the mission of our church.

We will announce the final result of our pledge campaign on November 27th. If you have not yet turned in your pledge we hope that you will do so. We would love for all of the pledges to be included in that announcement.

Thank you for being a faithful church. Thank you for being a generous church. It continues to be an honor and a joy to serve as your pastor.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Jeff Powers



**Reverend
Jeff Powers**



POWER OF PRAYER GROUP

“Confess your sin to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.”

James 5:16

Prayer requests may be made by calling the church office 713.782.7750 or online @ <http://www.wumc.com/prayer-request/>



Have you met some of our newest members??



Benjamin Osei Blesses &
Isaac Wosmekpos

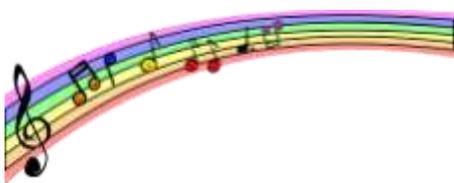


Jessica Clarke



Melissa Patin



 ***Do you love music?*** Are you looking for a way to be involved and minister? Being a part of the chancel choir at the 11:15 service is a perfect way to do just that! You could not meet a better group of people coming together on a weekly basis to make a joyful noise. Please feel free to join us! We rehearse from 7:00 to 8:30 on Wednesday evenings and lift our voices Sunday mornings. Just show up! No appointment or audition is necessary. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask any of the choir members or contact me directly. My email is edwardcellsworth@gmail.com or you can call or text me at 713-505-8837.

YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO US!

We are thankful that our attendance and membership is increasing here at Westminster. We are doing all we can to bring in new people and get them involved. In the process, we keep records of attendance and create metrics for the Church Council to track our numbers.

In light of this, it would be most beneficial if you would register your attendance each Sunday. You don't have to fill in every blank if we have your info — just enter your name to let us know you were here.

Praise God for the great things He is doing at Westminster!



*DO YOU HAVE
ARTICLES, PICTURES OR UPDATES FOR
THE WINDOW NEWSLETTER?*

Please send to Donna Yost, dyost@wumc.com or drop off at the church office.

Thanks for your help!



Thursday, December 22nd—Monday, December 26th :

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

Friday, December 30th—Monday, January 2nd:

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED



CAN YOU HELP ?

THE WESTMINSTER CHURCH OFFICE is blessed by volunteers who work either the morning or afternoon each day. The volunteers answer the phones, help with general office tasks, and welcome visitors and guests. It is a valuable ministry of the church, and gives you the opportunity to get to know the staff better, and to see many faces outside of Sunday morning worship. Presently, we have a need for a volunteer or a team of volunteers to fill the EVERY OTHER Wednesday afternoon time slot (12:30-4:00pm). We are also working on an expanded list of substitutes who can fill in occasionally. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Donna Yost, at 713-782-7750 or email:



Have you checked out our website & Facebook page recently??? Both are being updated regularly, so be sure to see what is happening at Westminster! www.wumc.com and Westminster's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/westminsterumc

CHECK IT OUT!

Missed a sermon? Weekly sermons recordings are posted on the website.

If you have updates or announcements for the website or Facebook, please submit to Bob Brinkman, bob.brinkmn@gmail.com or Donna Yost, dyost@wumc.com.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Westminster Advent Activity

November 27th

Parlor

10:10 am -11:10 am

(Sunday school hour)

Everyone is welcome to come start Advent season together by making an Advent candle decoration for your home.
(Kid friendly options available)



Happy Birthday!



You and your family are invited to Celebrate Jesus' Birthday. We are going to have a lot of fun.

December 18th

10:00 am-11:00 am

Fellowship Hall

There will be food, crafts and cake!!!



Littlest Elves Morning Out

December 10th

9:00 am-12:00 pm

Please go shopping and leave your little friends with us! This is a free event. Space is limited, so please register soon!

Register at www.wumc.com

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER (WOW)

THURSDAY, December 8th @ 11:00 am



We will meet in the Parlor to share a delicious meal and share in a wonderful presentation of Christmas music by the very talented Jana Ellsworth! It will be a great time of fellowship! And, a wonderful time to share the "sounds of the season" as we prepare for the birth of the King! Childcare reservations must be made by **December 1st** at our website: www.wumc.com or by contacting the church office. Luncheon RSVP's can be made by calling the church office, or by email to Donna at dyost@wumc.com. This will be a fantastic program and meal, so please invite friends, family and neighbors to enjoy the festive celebration of Christmas music.



Westminster Family Ministries News



We are rushing into the holiday season quickly and I am so excited to experience Advent with you. We have some great opportunities to prepare our hearts to celebrate our Lord's birth. Everyone in the church is invited to come to the Parlor during the Sunday school hour on November 27th and make a nice advent candle arrangement that you can light at home with your family. We have also made an Advent brochure that has guided readings and prayers for each week as you light the candles leading up to Jesus' birth. This can be a very special time for you and your family. I intentionally made this activity so families with or without children will be able to participate. One of the parlor annexes will be specifically for people without children, and then the larger parlor area will be for families with children. I don't want anyone to miss out on the opportunity to make something you can do at home that will help prepare your hearts for the coming Christ child.

The Children and Middlers ministries are hosting a Happy Birthday Jesus celebration in the Fellowship Hall on December 18th during the Sunday school hour. We will have fun eating and doing crafts. Please bring your family and friends for this very special time of focusing on celebrating our Lord's birth. All of the holiday activities we do are designed to help us and our children to remember what the Christmas season is really about.

I will be teaching an adult advent Bible study in A109 during the Sunday School hour. Because we are having activities on November 27th and December 18th during the Sunday school hour, we will have our four week Advent study on November 13th, 20th, December 4th and 11th. Any and everyone is welcome to join us.

Lastly, as we look toward 2017, I want to ask you to be looking out for information on a marriage enrichment class and a confirmation class for 6th-8th graders. 2017 is going to be a great year of going deeper with our Lord!

Blessings,
Kaisi



As the Christmas season approaches, we will have an opportunity to remember our loved ones or honor special people with poinsettias that will be in our sanctuary for Christmas. The poinsettias also make the sanctuary beautiful. Plants are \$12.00 each. Please fill out the form which are available in the Sunday bulletin or from the church office, and attach your check to the form, with "POINSETTIAS" on the memo line of your check. Completed forms & checks may be brought to the church office, placed in the offering plate or mailed.

Deadline for orders is **MONDAY, December 12th**. *Please make arrangements to pick up plants following the Candlelight Service (7:00 pm) on Christmas Eve.*

SANCTUARY FLOWERS SIGN UP SHEET



The 2017 Sanctuary Flowers Chart is in the narthex area. And, there are lots of spaces available to provide altar flowers, in memory of someone or to honor someone special. The flowers are a beautiful addition to our sanctuary each week, and a reminder of the beauty of God's earth. Two arrangements cost \$110.00. You may take one or both of the arrangements with you after the 11:15 worship service, or donate them.



Children's Ministries News



We blinked, and Fall is here. It has been quite an adventure embracing change in our church. I have been pleasantly surprised at how things move so quickly, and reminded of how generous our church members and friends are with their time and finances. I am loving the chapel lessons at the day school, and think that the entire school from the 9 month babies to the 5 year olds benefit tremendously. Our children are adapting to the challenges, of separation by age for Sunday School, really well. We have been blessed with volunteers for all classes, and we strive for the balance these children need.

We invite all families to take advantage of a "Little Elves Out" event the church will host on DEC 10th from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. This is a chance for parents to drop off their kiddos infant-3rd G free of charge in our church nursery, while you go out and take the morning to nap some more, or shop. Our very capable nursery staff will care for them and members of the Children's Council will lead in activities for the kids. This is free of charge as a gift to our church community.

There is also the Family Christmas Eve Service at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will be narrating the Christmas Story with the help of all children that attend that service. No practice is required, and all we ask is for willing participants. There is no messing up the story. There will also be snow out in the front lawn for all to enjoy after both services.

Thank you for your support, and blessings to you and your family.

-Priscilla Aguilar VerVoort
(Children's Ministries Director)

Dear, dear Families of Middlers:

As 2016 winds down, I pause to look back on the highlights. The first one that comes to mind is the enthusiasm and genuine interest your Middlers possess in their desire of wanting to learn about God's Word. It is truly a beautiful thing to behold.

Other Highlights from 2016:

Supportive parents, family members, adult leaders, church family, and members of our Middlers Parent Council. Sunday school and **table 66** – focus, fun, and creativity as we not only learned Bible stories and Scripture, but also learned of their timeless relevance and the value of "hiding them in our hearts". *Secret Keepers* for Girls. Lock-In. Bowling. Creating bags for the homeless. Movie and dinner. Food Bank. Chili Cook-Off. Acolyting. Family camp out. *Church Under the Bridge*. Parenting Seminar focused on social media. Decorating our newly painted youth area with their biblical maps and Bible verses. *Salute to Veterans* mission project.

Looking Ahead

We hope you will be able to join us for a variety of wonderful activities and adventures as we continue to learn about God's jaw-dropping creation and to discern the awesome plans He has for our lives.

November 20th Family Advent Candle creations during Sunday school

December 4th **Middlers Christmas party** 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. location TBD

December 18th Happy Birthday Jesus during Sunday school (FH)

December 24th Family Christmas Eve service and celebration 3:00

January 15th – March 5th 8 week **Confirmation Class** for 6th-8th graders. 4:00 – 5:15.

February 10-12th **Confirmation Retreat** – Lakeview Conference Center. This will INDEED be a weekend to remember as we will join other students from around Texas for a time of fellowship, learning, and activities in this beautiful setting that is Lakeview!

January 11th **table 66** resumes

Ideas that are "in the works" for 2017:

Mission project. *Owl Prowl*. Mystery Tour of Houston. Christian concert. *Sky High*. Christian theatre/musical. Lock-In.

May God bless you and keep you,

Millie Eads



PREPARE ENRICH

• *building strong marriages* •

Marriage Enrichment Class
January 8th-March 19th
Sunday mornings from 10:05 am-11:05 am
Room A 109

Cost is \$40 per couple (this covers the assessment and materials)

Registration Deadline: January 2nd

Kalsi Cunningham will be teaching a marriage class that will focus on your specific marriage by using the PrepareEnrich assessment. Kalsi has been certified in PrepareEnrich for 13 years and has helped over a hundred couples strengthen their marriages using this assessment. The assessment will only be discussed between you and your spouse. In this class we will focus on practical skills in areas such as communication, conflict resolution, personality traits, family dynamics, etc. If you have been married for 1 month or 50 years, this class will strengthen your marriage.

Register at www.wumc.com



Men's Fellowship & Bible Study
Westminster UMC
Tuesday Mornings
Beginning September 13th
6:00 am-7:00 am
Breakfast will be provided
Register at www.wumc.com



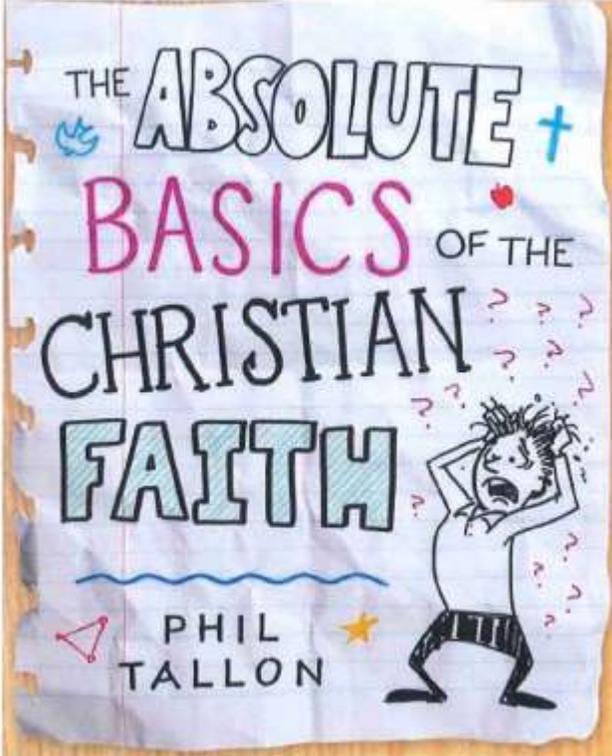
This Fall we are going to be starting a new Bible Study for Moms of Young children, (Infant-elementary age)

Beginning on
September 6th
Tuesday
9:15 am-10:30 am
Cost is \$15
 Childcare Provided
 (space is limited, so register early)
 Register and pay at: www.wumc.com

New Women's Bible Study

This will be a great time to enjoy the company of other moms, study the Bible and have a nice break from family responsibilities.





THE ABSOLUTE + BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

PHIL TALLON

Confirmation

January 15th-March 5th
Sundays from 4:00 pm-5:15 pm
Youth Room
6th-8th grade students
\$15 a student
Register at www.wumc.com

Parent classes 4:00 pm -5:15 pm January 15th & 29th February 12th & 26th In the Parlor Childcare Provided	Confirmation Retreat Feb. 10th-12th Lakeview Conference Center \$150 A fun weekend learning about Grace
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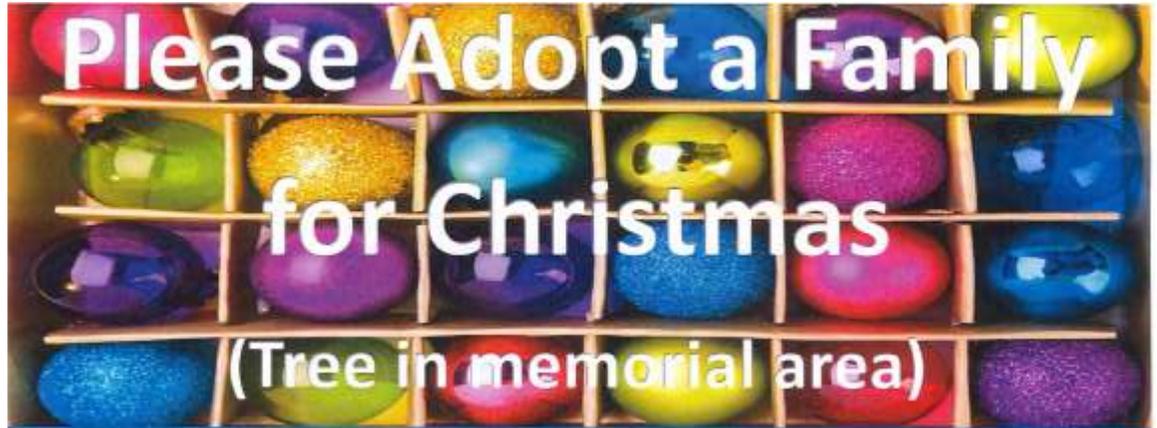
Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24th

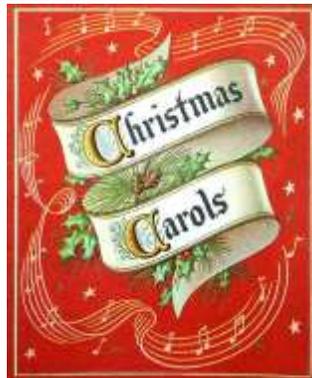
3:00 Family Candlelight Service All children will be invited to participate as we tell the story of Jesus' birth.	6:00 Traditional Candlelight Service Worship and experience the traditional songs of Christmas with our Chancel Choir.
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We will offer communion at both services. All are invited to the Lord's table.
Nursery care provided for all services.

Both services followed by *joyful play* in the snow!



Please pick out an ornament by the size of family you would like to adopt. Then fill out your information (please write legibly) and hang the ornament back up. When we get the detailed information about your adopted family, we will contact you with that list. It should be in late November to early December. If you have any questions, please contact Kaisi Cunningham at kcunningham@wumc.com



Chancel Choir Cantata!

*Sunday, December 11th
11:15 am Worship Service*

WUMC Sanctuary

This will be a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to Westminster to worship and share the Christmas story while enjoying our fantastic choir.

MISSIONS NEWS



Say "Ho Ho Ho"
To Holiday Cleaning

There is no task too big or small for Martha's Way Housekeepers
Clear out the closets, wipe away dust, and tidy up before your guests arrive!

Polishing Metals
Bring back the beauty of your most precious metals.

One time, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly cleanings
Contact us today and start receiving professional candidates!

Chemical safety trained
Friendly products and safe techniques.

Please contact Ana Tappan, Vocational Training Manager, at
713-961-3993 ext. 210, to connect with a Martha's Way Graduate.

CCSC

CCSC Christian Community Service Center

Jingle Bell Express
2016**Holiday
Drive**

More than 2,500 low-income children will receive help through Jingle Bell Express 2016.

Celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by sharing your blessings with others.

Donations requested:

New, unwrapped TOYS

New CHILDREN'S BOOKS

(Ages 0—15)

We believe in sharing Christmas.

The mission of Christian Community Service Center is to serve the poor, hungry, disabled and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic, or cultural differences.

Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) is preparing to spread holiday cheer through **Jingle Bell Express!** For the 2016 event, CCSC plans to serve 2,500 underprivileged children; each will receive new toys, books, and a holiday food package for his/her family. Help your neighbors in need have a beautiful Christmas! Jingle Bell Express will be held at Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd. (77401)

Monday, December 5 - Moving Night (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Tuesday, December 6 - Food Package Assembly Night (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Wednesday, December 7 - Toy & Book Sorting Night (6:00 - 8:00 pm)

Friday & Saturday, December 9 & 10 - Distribution (7:30 am - 1:30 pm)

For more information, please contact Cathy Brown, Youth Services Manager, at seasonal@ccschouston.org or [713-961-3993 ext. 215](tel:713-961-3993).

We believe in sharing Christmas.

Westminster United Methodist Church Calendar

November, 2016—December, 2016

Saturday, November 26

Sunday, November 27—**1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9:00am Contemporary Worship (FH)
 10:10am Advent activity (Parlor)
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:15am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, November 28

Tuesday, November 29

6:00am Men's Bible study & breakfast (Parlor)
 9:15am Mothers of Young Children Bible study
 (Parlor Annex)

Wednesday, November 30

12:00pm Noon Bible Study (A-109)
 7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 1

6:30pm SPRC meeting (CR)

Friday, December 2

Saturday, December 3

Sunday, December 4—**2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9:00am Contemporary Worship (FH)
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:15am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:30pm Trustees meeting (CR)

Monday, December 5

Tuesday, December 6

6:00am Men's Bible study & breakfast (Parlor)
 9:15am Mothers of Young Children Bible study
 (Parlor Annex)

Wednesday, December 7—Pearl Harbor Day

12:00pm Noon Bible Study (A-109)
 7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 8

11:30am WOW program & luncheon (Parlor)

Friday, December 9

Saturday, December 10

9:00am Little Elves morning out

Sunday, December 11—**3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9:00am Contemporary Worship (FH)
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:15am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) &
 Choir Cantata

Monday, December 12

9:00am WDS Big Chapel
 12:00pm WDS Staff meeting
 6:30pm WDS Advisory Board (A-107)

Tuesday, December 13

6:00am Men's Bible study & breakfast (Parlor)

Wednesday, December 14

12:00pm Noon Bible Study (A-109)
 7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 15—**Weekday school out on break until 1/4**

Friday, December 16

Saturday, December 17

Sunday, December 18—**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9:00am Contemporary Worship (FH)
 10:00am Sunday School
 10:00am Happy Birthday Jesus party (FH)
 11:15am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 19

Tuesday, December 20

6:00am Men's Bible study & breakfast (Parlor)

Wednesday, December 21

12:00pm Noon Bible Study (A-109)
 7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 22—**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**Friday, December 23—**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**Saturday, December 24—**CHRISTMAS EVE**

3:00pm Family Worship service w/ communion
 6:00pm Traditional Worship w/ communion

Sunday, December 25—**CHRISTMAS DAY****ONE WORSHIP SERVICE & NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

11:15am Unified Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 26—**CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED**

Tuesday, December 27

Wednesday, December 28

12:00pm Noon Bible Study (A-109)

Thursday, December 29

Friday, December 30

Saturday, December 31

Sunday, January 1—**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

9:00am Contemporary Worship (FH)
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:15am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, January 2—**CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED**

Tuesday, January 3

6:00am Men's Bible study & breakfast (Parlor)

Wednesday, January 4—**School resumes**

12:00pm Noon Bible Study (A-109)
 7:00pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, January 5

6:30pm SPRC meeting (CR)

Friday, January 6

Saturday, January 7

Sunday, January 8

9:00am Contemporary Worship (FH)
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:15am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
 12:30pm Trustees meeting (CR)

Monday, January 9

6:30pm WDS Advisory Board (A-107)

Tuesday, January 10

6:00am Men's Bible study & breakfast (Parlor)
 9:15am Mothers of Young Children Bible study

Wednesday, January 11—**DINNERS & ACTIVITIES RESUME**

12:00pm Noon Bible Study (A-109)
 5:30pm Fellowship dinner
 6:30pm Programs & Studies
 7:00pm Choir rehearsal



Westminster United Methodist Church
5801 San Felipe at Bering Drive
Houston, Texas 77057

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Church Offices

5801 San Felipe, Houston, Texas
77057

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 713.782.7750

Fax: 713.977.0340

Preschool: 713.782.1344

Website: www.wumc.com

Phone numbers and e-mail addresses are at [www.wumc.com/Contact Us](http://www.wumc.com/ContactUs)

SERMONS

ON-LINE @

www.wumc.com/Worship.aspx

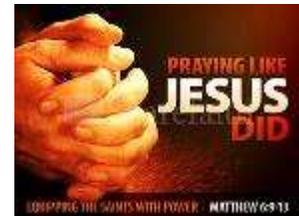
PRAYER GROUP

“Confess your sin to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” *James 5:16*

Prayer Room: Open weekdays during church hours and on Sunday from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Prayer Garden: Open 24/7

Prayer Requests may be made by calling the church office, 713.782.7750, or on-line@ www.wumc.com/ConnectwithUs/PrayerRequests.aspx.



UPDATE MY INFORMATION:

If you have moved, changed your phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc., please let us know. You may call the church office 713.782.7750 or email Donna at dyost@wumc.com.