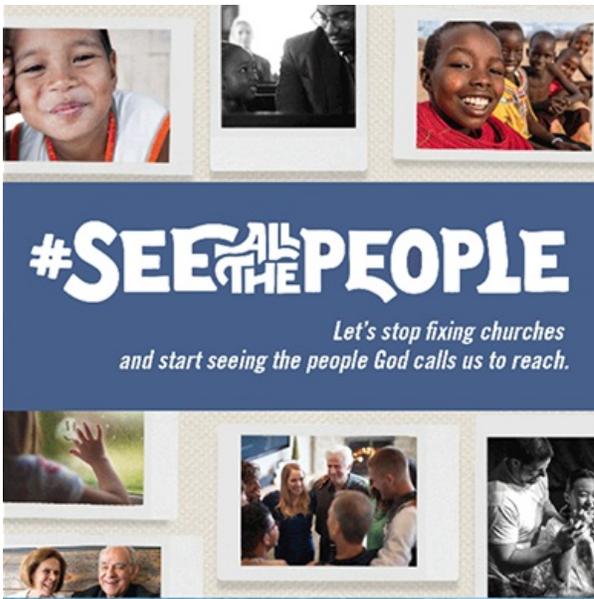


Central TEXAS Conference

Mission CONNECTION

Jan. 6 – World Service Fund (Focus: Discipleship Ministries)



A Moment for Mission

“Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power.” —Ephesians 3:7, NRSV

What would happen if we stopped fixing our churches and started seeing all the people that God has called us to reach? Our anxious response to decades of decline in mainline denominations is to try to fix what is broken. We have turned inward, believing that if we just implement the right program, get the right leadership structure, build a new playground for

children or get the right worship praise band, perhaps, people will come.

The problem with that thinking is captured perfectly by Mike Breen who wrote, “If you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples. But if you make disciples, you will always get the church.”

We must have a relentless focus on making, growing and maturing disciples. This starts by creating an intentional discipleship system or pathway that will help disciples move through stages of growth on a lifelong journey of faith. Whether you know it or not, you already have a discipleship system in place in your church. Your current system produces exactly what it is designed to produce.

Discipleship Ministries’ “See All the People” (seeallthepeople.org) wants to help churches be more intentional about what kind of disciples we are making and how they are formed.

Through your church’s support of the **World Service Fund**, you help United Methodism’s Discipleship Ministries make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Human Trafficking Awareness Day January 11, 2019

Nearly 21 million people are victims of labor trafficking, trapped in jobs through force, fraud or coercion. Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide with two-thirds of those profits coming from commercial sexual exploitation. People become vulnerable to traffickers as a result of many factors that are common in people of all ages in every town, village and community.

As faith communities, we seek to provide sanctuary and pastoral care for individuals, while also working to end the supply and demand of trafficking. The Church must be committed to challenging the systems (cultural, economic, political) that both create vulnerability and the opportunities for exploitation.

[What the Bible and The United Methodist Church Say](#)

[Three things you can do](#)

Human Relations Day January 20, 2019

Human Relations Day is one of six church wide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church.

"Human Relations Day calls for the church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with one another. The purpose of the day is to further the development of better human relations." 263 *The Book of Discipline* (2016)

The special offering benefits neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services and work with at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program.

[How to get more involved](#)

Justice for our Neighbors – D-FW

Justice for Our Neighbors-Dallas/Fort Worth is a Methodist Immigration Ministry that has provided low-cost immigration legal services since 1999. Each day we put into action the Methodist Social Principles of loving our neighbors as ourselves and providing for the welfare of immigrants instead of oppressing them.

Bishop Minerva Carcaño, official spokesperson for the United Methodist Council of Bishops on the issue of immigration, San Francisco Area of The United Methodist Church and an Auburn Senior Fellow, has drafted this [petition](#) to tell our national leaders to stop family separation and protect family unity. Individuals, organizations and congregations can all sign!

Bishop Lowry voices his ardent support of AC18 Resolution, which calls the policy of separating children from parents “inhumane” and denounces the establishment of “tent cities” in Texas.

Early Response Training

One of the primary ways the Central Texas Conference responds to disasters is via our Early Response Team (ERT). Our CTC ERTs respond to disasters within the conference, as well as to help other areas facing disasters.

The mission of an Early Response Team is to provide a caring presence in the aftermath of a disaster, under very specific guidelines that enables a team to be productive and caring while causing no further harm or being a burden to the affected community.



Early Response Training Opportunities:

Saturday, January 12, 2019 9am-5pm
[Georgetown First United Methodist Church](#)
410 E. University Ave.
Georgetown, TX. 78626
Instructors: Terry Crain & Dave Scott
Class Fee \$30
Register [HERE](#)
Registration closes January 8

Saturday, January 26, 2019 9am-5pm
[Fort Worth First United Methodist Church](#)
800 W. Fifth St.
Fort Worth, TX. 76102
Instructor: Chuck Graff
Class Fee \$30
Register [HERE](#)
Registration closes January 22

Saturday, February 9, 2019 9am-5pm
[Meridian First United Methodist Church](#)
300 N. Main
Meridian, TX. 76665
Instructors: Kevin & Lee Morton
Class Fee \$30
Register [HERE](#)
Registration closes February 5

Re-certification/Advanced Training Opportunity:

Saturday, February 9, 2019 9am-1pm
[Meridian First United Methodist Church](#)
300 N. Main
Meridian, TX. 76665
Instructor: Susan Luttrell
Class Fee \$20
Register [HERE](#)
Registration closes February 5

Saturday, March 2, 2019 9am-1pm
[Joshua First United Methodist Church](#)
111 Paula St.
Joshua, TX. 76508
Instructor: Susan Luttrell
Class Fee: \$20
Register [HERE](#)
Registration closes February 26



Mental Health First Aid is a program made available to rural north Texas communities through the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council (DFWHC). **Mental Health First Aid** teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance abuse in your community.

Please join us on **Tuesday, January 22 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM** at the Central Texas Conference Service Center to hear more about this important initiative.

The focus of the meeting will address both short-term and long-term objectives for the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) initiative. From a short-term perspective, Texas Health Resources would like to determine which churches within the CTC are interested in capitalizing on the free MHFA classes currently being funded by the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council (DFWHC) Foundation. Since grant funds are limited, it will be important to work towards getting the MHFA classes on the trainer's schedules before funding runs out (classes typically cost \$100 per person without grant funding).

Recognizing that true benefit will come from ongoing MHFA and related services that address mental health, the majority of our discussions will include long-term strategic planning. We will share the vision of "partnering with you for a lifetime of health and well-being" for the people in the communities we serve. Through a shared commitment, we are confident we will make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

For information on Mental Health First Aid training in North Texas and to register for the event, please contact Mission Coordinator **[Katherine Hunter](#)**.

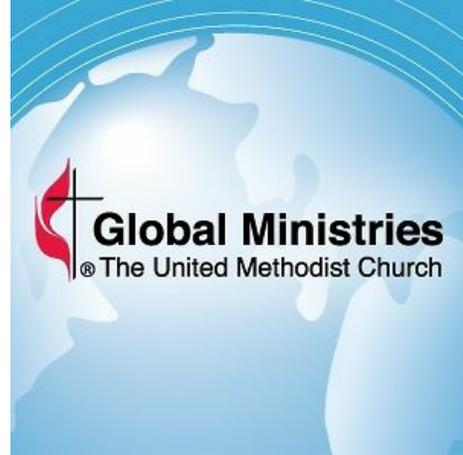


Rebuilding lives, homes and facilities with God's love and our hands. NOMADS is a mission outreach ministry of United Methodists. The NOMADS program is specific to individuals and couples with RVs wishing to be involved in Christian service. Find more information at www.nomadsumc.org

Global Ministries strives to connect the church in mission. For that purpose, the Center for Mission Engagement Unit is in the process of developing resources to help local churches become more effective agents in mission.

[The Mission Assessment Tool](#) is intended to help a church evaluate its ongoing mission work and determine whether it aligns with its values and aspirations. It will encourage you to think critically

about the mission work you are currently doing and measure its impact on both your own church and the community with whom you are engaged. Invite both laity and clergy to participate.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION TO OPEN JANUARY 4TH FOR CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE YOUTH IN MISSION

Now that our church groups have finished registering for CTCYM 2019, registration for individuals is about to open. Students, Adult Volunteers, Living Center Leadership, and Group Leaders will register themselves at www.ctcym.org.

Applications for Living Center Leadership are also available on the [“For Leadership”](#) page of www.ctcym.org. This is a required step for adults wishing to serve in leadership roles. Completing this step helps CTCYM prepare for the 2019 trip, so please don't delay on filling it out. A detailed-outline of leadership assignments is already in the works. You and your adults completing the Leadership Application helps CTCYM to work as in advance as possible.

Contact [Claire Condrey](#) at the Conference Service Center with any questions or to discuss the trip in greater detail. 817-877-5222

Would you like more information?

Feel free to contact [Claire Condrey](#) or [MaDora Ratliff](#) with any questions. You may read more about all the Youth Ministry events and ongoing ministries in the Central Texas Conference by visiting www.ctcumc.org/youthministries.



Follow us on Instagram at [@missionctcumc](https://www.instagram.com/missionctcumc)



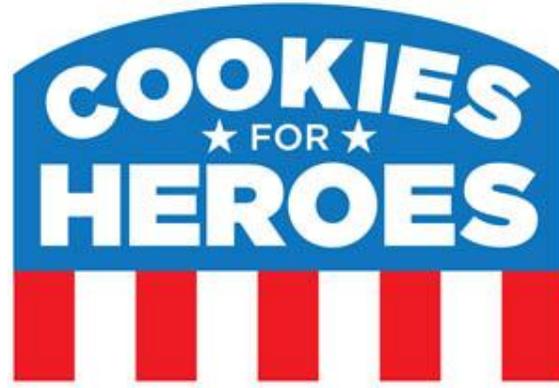
Courts & Ports: Faithful Witness on the Texas-Mexico Border

The Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy/Texas Impact invites you to participate in Courts & Ports: Faithful Witness on the Texas-Mexico Border.

This 2-day immersion experience engages people of faith to witness first-hand the legal and law enforcement processes related to immigration, detention, and deportation occurring in South Texas.

Courts & Ports is a partnership between the Interfaith Center and the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas. Participants observe proceedings in federal criminal court, and record their observations for use by ACLU and other attorneys; meet with faith and policy experts working on the border; spend time with individuals who have pending asylum cases; engage in contextualizing discussion with Texas Impact pastoral staff and other faith leaders; plan and participate in worship; and become part of an online “alumni” community.

For more information about how your church might be part of Court and Ports, email [Katherine Hunter](mailto:katherine.hunter@missionctcumc.org), CTC Mission Coordinator.



Thank you for participating in Cookies for the Troops in 2018. The Central Texas Conference baked and donated over 7,900 dozen cookies for our military! That's over **94,000 cookies!!** Thank you for sharing your love with the men and women willing to put their lives on the line for us.



Five Star Mission Award Applications Available NOW

The Five Star Award for Missional Involvement is a Central Texas Conference initiative designed to serve as a starting point for risk-taking mission and service by recognizing United Methodist churches that achieve a foundational level of engagement with the needs of the world during a calendar year. Applications are available [HERE](#). Please email [Katherine Hunter](#) with any questions.



the relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. **Your support is needed** through volunteer teams to assist with cleanup and rebuilding. **Our conference has funds available to off-set costs of travel, lodging and meals.** If you are interested in sending a team or participating in the relief efforts, please review the Rio Texas Response and

Recovery [page](#) and contact [Katherine Hunter](#) for more information.



Like us on
Facebook

Have you LIKED the CTC Mission Ministries Facebook page? Follow us and share your mission stories and photos!

How
may I
help you?

Do you need help finding particular resource? Do you have an awesome resource you'd like to share with others? Please reach out with your questions, comments, interests or just to say hello! I am serving as Mission Coordinator in the Central Texas Conference working to connect you with information and resources needed to make you mission successful. Please contact Katherine Hunter with questions or comments at katherinehunter@ctcumc.org or 817-877-5222.

Central Texas Conference
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(817) 877-5222

// CONNECT WITH US //

