

# WEEKLY CONNECTIONS

April 16, 2021

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church [www.shephills.org](http://www.shephills.org)

## Brighter Days In God's Surprises!

We are Easter people!

An empty tomb has given us a full life in Christ! Join us for worship throughout this Easter season, as we give thanks for the brightness of God's love in our lives and proclaim Easter hope to the world.

## Worship for April 17 + 18

**5:30 p.m. Saturday Outdoor Courtyard Worship\***

**8:15 a.m. Sunday Outdoor Courtyard Worship\***

**10:45 a.m. Sunday Live-stream @ [www.shephills.org](http://www.shephills.org)**

\*A cancellation notice due to inclement weather will be sent to your inbox at least one hour prior to the start of service, and will include instructions about when to watch online!

## Learning Hour

**9:30 a.m. ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

"Witnesses to Brighter Days!" How did the people of the Bible experience and react to the promises of God? Better yet, how do we? This week Pr. Tom leads us in "Faith for the Future: Jacob".

Zoom Meeting ID 882 7978 6819 | Passcode 267585

**10:00 a.m. CAMP HOPE (PREK-GRADE 4)**

Bible stories and games!

Contact Joel Timmons ([joel@shephills.org](mailto:joel@shephills.org)) for Zoom info.\*

***\*Zoom links can also be found under the name and date of event on [realm.org](http://realm.org), Community, Events.***

## Sanctuary Worship Resumes!

**8:15 a.m. SUNDAY, MAY 2**

It's Happening! Here's what to expect:

### Worship the Risen Lord in our Sanctuary!

Know that you will be greeted at the front doors in the Courtyard by a welcoming host who will help you find a seat in the Sanctuary and ensure you have everything you need for worship, including an individual communion packet and a mask if you've forgotten one (masks are a must!). Groups of seats will be arranged with plenty of social distancing from those outside your family. We will not sing as a congregation in the Sanctuary, or pass offering plates (offering can be given upon entering or leaving, or online). Restrooms will be available and there will be a porter continually sanitizing these spaces for your safety. Worship will be about 45 minutes long, with catered coffee in the Courtyard following. How exciting to worship in the Sanctuary again!

We hope you'll join us!

## **Beginning May 1, our New Worship Schedule will be:**

Saturday Outdoor Courtyard Worship at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Sanctuary Worship at 8:15 a.m.

Sunday Livestream Worship at 10:45 a.m.

*\*Sunday Outdoor Service at 8:15 a.m. will no longer occur.*

## **Happy Hour Chat!**

### **7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAYS THRU MAY 19**

It is an hour of happiness and talk of future plans! BYOB and join us in this interactive, conversational Zoom format (no need to mute here!), and let's HEAR what you have to say!

Week of April 18: It's Done! This Matters! Capital Campaign and next steps...

Zoom Meeting ID 822 2836 9335 | Passcode 347352

## **Witnesses of Brighter Days Bible Study**

How did Biblical people experience and react to the promises of God? Better yet, how do we? Choose from in-person or Zoom formats, at a time that fits into your life!

Week of April 18 - Faith for the Future: Jacob

### **SUNDAYS, THRU MAY 16**

**9:30 a.m. | Zoom (in-person begins in May!)**

A great way to open your heart to worship on Sunday mornings!

Zoom Meeting ID 882 7978 6819 | Passcode 267585

### **WEDNESDAYS, THRU MAY 19**

**8:00 a.m. | Solomon's Porch (in-person)**

Bring your coffee and wear a mask!

### **WEDNESDAYS, THRU MAY 19**

**12:00 p.m. | Zoom**

Enjoy it on Zoom over lunch!

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 7794 3340 | Passcode 059014

### **THURSDAYS, APRIL 15-MAY 20**

**7:15 a.m. | Zoom**

The Men's Bible Study group rises early!

Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2030 6574 | Passcode 581490

## **Marge Ely Memorial Service**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 17**

**2:00 p.m. | Courtyard**

A celebration of life to remember Marge Ely. Light reception to follow. Donations may be made to Shepherd of the Hills in her memory and will be dedicated to Altar Guild ministries. These ministries serve to prepare the worship space each week, including setting the Table for Holy Communion. If you would prefer to give online, please use the QR code above.

## **Brighter Days on Wednesdays!**

**WEDNESDAYS, THRU MAY 19**

See information above.

## Readers' Heaven

**THURSDAY, APRIL 29**

**7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary**

We will discuss *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake* by Anna Quindlen. Please RSVP on Realm (go to Events, April 29, Readers' Heaven) so we know how many to expect. Contact Karen Flint, karenflint@me.com with questions.

## Advent Camp at Camp Chrysalis

**REGISTER NOW! Weekend of December 3-5**

Register now to attend this fun, family-centric retreat along with other families from our church! Go to: <https://crosstrails.org/retreats/programmed-retreats>. Contact Melissa Robertson (melissa.k.rob@gmail.com) with questions.

## LWR Baby Care Kits

**SHOP THE SALES!**

Donating items for LWR Baby Care Kits is a year round effort!



In April we are collecting infant hooded sweatshirts, sweaters or jackets in sizes 18-24 months. New sale items have been added to the registry list-find the link in Realm Events under May 31, 2021, LWR BabyCare Kits. Or use this QR Code. Thank you for your continued support!

**In March our collection goal was 500 cloth diapers, which we exceeded! Thank you to all who contributed.**

## Weekly Generosity Impact This Matters!

How grateful and blessed are we that our campus renewal was complete and ready for our faith community through the challenges of the past year!? My name is Melissa Robertson. My husband John and I have two young girls, Keaton and Natalie and we've been active members of Shepherd for almost 7 years. I've been a volunteer of the Family Ministry Program for 5 of those years. We've supported the This Matters! Campaign and we cannot be more pleased with all the renovations, inside and out. The improvements outside especially have enhanced my family's experiences here, both in worship, at events, and through fellowship with others. We thoroughly enjoy the Saturday courtyard worship. Our girls are happy with the casual setting and, more importantly to me and John, it allows them to see that church doesn't always have to be in a Sanctuary. We all enjoy the nature aspect too. We find God's creatures crawling on our picnic blanket during worship. How cool is that!? Church is not just about attending worship, it is about community, belonging, fellowship and FUN too!

Speaking of fun, the monthly family ministry event "Friday Fun Nights" has been a highlight for my family. It's where families of young ones meet on a Friday for 2 hours for a meal, along with some sort of seasonal activity, service project or craft. Kids run free while parents can enjoy conversation together. I'm very thankful for the outdoor courtyard layout because it allowed us to be creative and continue to meet. This spring (and last fall) we are using it for 'popcorn movie nights.' It has been a lot of fun for our families! I'm not sure what this ministry would've looked like without this space.

The entire facility, inside and out, has been transformed to a more beautiful, inviting and purposeful space for my family, and for all - young and wise. Because of This Matters! children have enjoyed climbing around on a new safe playground. My mom and I have practiced yoga and meditation in the courtyard. I've had good planning meetings and laughter with staff over coffee on the back porch. Worship is a safe and rejuvenating experience between the trees. And, I look forward to the Sunday I can have a breakfast taco again with my friends in the Activity Center, and having the choice to worship inside our beautiful Sanctuary again. Thanks be to God for the blessings given to all of us through this campus renewal - that our community can enjoy and share this together for years to come!

## A Big Thank You!

Thank you for your continued generosity in support of our missions, ministries, and special offerings. Remember pledging and giving are easier than ever! Go to [www.shephills.org/give](http://www.shephills.org/give) or [onrealm.org/shephills](http://onrealm.org/shephills), Community, Giving and follow the prompts; or click on the QR code below! And no worries, we still welcome checks mailed to Shepherd of the Hills, 3525 Bee Caves Rd, ATX 78746. Questions? Contact Finance Controller Kevin Marlow at [kmarlow@shephills.org](mailto:kmarlow@shephills.org)



## Prayers

Please pray for Kristen Murray, Walter Buell, Lauren Paulson, Wanda Lowke and Don Gaskin

Please pray for Geneva Robertson, mother of John Robertson

Please pray for Andrea Evilsizer, daughter of Don Cadenhead

Prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of Cosmo McNeil, son of Michael and Rachael McNeil, grandson of Thom and Marcy McNeil

Please pray for those who mourn for Dolores Smith, mother of Larry Smith

We pray for Jamie Putnam and family as they remember the one-year anniversary of Justin's tragic death. May all find comfort in you as they find strength in one another. And, may the flowers today remembering Justin be a sign of our new life found in You.

Our prayers for the community of Mpls.-St. Paul as they confront issues of racial strife. May your Spirit of peace and justice intervene. May violence not be repaid with more violence so that a path forward of healing and reconciliation may occur. We pray for all communities and all people who harbor hate and prejudice that your way of love may be found and followed.

We continue to pray for all those affected by COVID-19, and for those caring for them. We give thanks for the hopefulness we are experiencing with more and more vaccinations each week. We look forward to the continued movement toward the end of this pandemic, and we pray for therapeutics and medical care to tend to those who fall ill.

Please pray for our global ministries: Rev. Karen Castillo in Guatemala; Iglesia Luterana Augustina Virgen del Rosario, Aurora 8 de Octubre, Guatemala; Malcolm and Joy Henderson and the ministry of CHARIS in Haiti

Please pray for our local ministries: Mariposa Family Learning Center, Bread For All and Upbring Ministries

Please pray for our faith community, that we may be a church without walls and live out loud...faithfully!

\*Prayers for family members are listed for 2 weeks unless we are notified otherwise.

Shepherd of the Hills | [www.shephills.org](http://www.shephills.org) | 3525 Bee Caves Rd, ATX 78746 (512) 327-3370