Love Takes Risks

When I think of the ministry of Jesus, I think of risk. The risks that Jesus took began from the moment of his baptism. As he shared the message in his hometown that he was the one to fulfill the prophesy to preach good news to the poor, release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind and to let the oppressed go free, he was almost run out of town off a cliff! That willingness to risk this good news so all people could hear it, led him to continuous opportunities of professing his faith.

From healing on the sabbath when it was considered against the current understanding of Jewish law, to eating with prostitutes and sinners when they were considered by the religious to be unclean, to inviting children and women who were normally the most excluded of that culture to be included in his ministry.

How much Jesus risked to teach us about love: ultimately to his death. As we listen this Lent about stories where Jesus risked his reputation, risked in righteous anger, risked even his relationships, we will find ourselves drawn deeper into risks with our discipleship too. Risking it comes not out of our own power but our passionate love for God. If we undertake risk for risks sake, this is not complete love. It is only when we risk for the sake of proclaiming the gospel that the good news is shared.

And so I encourage us all to take the Lenten journey together listening for how God is asking us to risk for the sake of sharing the love of Jesus. Please join in our Sunday worship services at 10:30 am and our Wednesday evening services at 6:30 pm throughout this holy season of the church year.

Ash Wednesday - March 6 - Matthew 6: 1-16 - ‘Why Risk It?’
Sunday, March 24 - Mark 12:28-34 - ‘Risking Challenge’
Sunday, March 31 - Matthew 26:6-13 - ‘Risking Rejection’
Sunday, April 7 - Luke 14: 25-27 - ‘Risking the Loss of Friends’
Thursday, April 18 - John 13: 5- 11 - Maundy Thursday - ‘Risking Vulnerability’ Friday, April 19 - ‘Risking Temptation’
Easter Sunday, April 21 - Luke 24:1-12 - ‘Risk and Reward’
Dear Walnut Hill Congregation,

As you all are aware, in the United Methodist church, ordained elders are appointed by the Bishop and Cabinet from year to year, according to the needs of the congregation. Over the past six years of my appointment to Walnut Hill UMC, I have been approached by the Bishop and Cabinet twice with the possibility of another appointment, but had declined because I felt the gifts and talents God had given me were still a good match for this congregation. When the Bishop called me three weeks ago offering another appointment at First United Methodist Church of Flower Mound to begin on July 1, 2019, I was still sick at home. They have been very patient in delaying the seating of this appointment and the announcement at both congregations to allow for my healing and considering the difficult situation Walnut Hill has been facing over the past two weeks. Your well being and healing has been a priority for the Cabinet.

In considering this new appointment prayerfully, I believe that a new pastor at Walnut Hill UMC with fresh energy, new insights, and creative possibilities can lead Walnut Hill's growth and flourishing for the future. It is hard to share this news with you though, especially after you all have been so kind and caring with me over my illness over the past month. But, I believe my absence has revealed the strength and talents of the laity and staff and how the church is not dependent upon the pastor. You all have a bright future ahead and my family and I have been blessed by the warmth, grace and goodness of your love. You have helped me to become more faithful and have taught my children what it means to be a faith family. You all have offered us friendship and kindness and our lives are better because of it. We will greatly miss you.

There is much to pray for over the next few months as we journey together in ministry. It seems odd to make this announcement today, as the future of the United Methodist Church is being determined. As General conference continues to convene today and tomorrow, we pray for the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead all of the delegates from around the world. I encourage you to stay up to date on the latest legislative decisions being made through the website: www.umc.org/who-we-are/general-conference-2019-news-in-many-languages.

We pray for our staff members Heidi and Nautica in their healing journey, and for their time away to be one filling them with the assurance of our love and God's tender mercies.

We will pray for our leadership and Staff Parish Relations committee, as they convene with our District Superintendent in future days to determine the next pastor for Walnut Hill UMC.

We will meet again this Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. to be in prayer for these many needs and to gather as a faithful community of servants for the mission of Jesus Christ. We will also have a time on Sunday after worship to share the results of General Conference. We will continue the mission of the church, with hope and joy, knowing that God began a good work in you 70 years ago and will bring that to fulfillment.

To God be the glory for you, the people of Walnut Hill and your ministry!

Love and blessings to you,
Rev. Alexandra Robinson
Quoting Kierkegaard, "life is lived forward but understood backwards," stated Rev. Linda Roby, current Chair of the Golden Cross Fund, who spoke at the Feb. 7, general meeting of the MDMC (Methodist Dallas Medical Center - hospital) Auxiliary at Hitt Auditorium.

Methodists started Golden Cross in 1921, as a community outreach for those in need of healthcare. The idea was with a $1 donation from every Methodist each year, healthcare could be provided for those who could not afford it. Golden Cross predates the building of Methodist hospital in Dallas.

And so today, Golden Cross grew as a faith program of the Methodist Health System and the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church with the purpose of providing financial assistance for health care to North Texans who cannot afford it.

The MDMC Auxiliary funnels goods, volunteers, and monies to the hospital and Golden Cross through support from United Methodist Women (UMW) representatives from over 65 churches in our area. Thousands of items are prepared through UMW circles, and love offerings are collected to support the Golden Cross Pharmacy fund by the hospital Auxiliary and UMW combined.

Walnut Hill UMC actively supports Golden Cross through communion offerings. Walnut Hill UMW, especially the Circle of Love, feeds the pipeline of volunteers, goods and monies through MDMC Auxiliary. In 2018, in addition to love offerings, Circle of Love, along with support from other circles and many church members who made donations, provided 135 toiletry bags, 164 tray favors for patients, 4 walker bags, 26 receiving blankets, 9 wheelchair blankets, and 21 Christmas stockings for December newborns, to Golden Cross. Circle members proudly display their Christmas stockings in photo below.
8th Annual UMM Chili Cookoff

As we prepare for the new year, a Big Events Calendar will be coming out that has the important events for 2019 in it. When we have an event at the church, there is always leftover food, leftover platters, plates, and other items. I’m asking that if you bring anything to church, you need to take it home with you when the event is over. ALWAYS put your name and the event on EVERYTHING you bring into the church. Don’t assume, “someone else can use it.” I have been cleaning out the refrigerators in the kitchen and the Sowing Corner and continue to have to throw food out, wash the dishes, and have no clue who the dishes belong to. You may use masking tape to clearly mark your item. My goal this year is to de-clutter the church as we prepare to possibly re-purpose space. I will be focusing on all the closets and cabinets in shared areas, and it is time to take home or throw out items you or your group are no longer using.

There will be a new security system installed this spring. Those of you who have a code may continue to use your code until the new system is active. The new system will have badges and the codes will be going away. We are implementing our new Emergency Preparedness Plan. This effort is being led by our new member of Trustees, John Ozmun. For those of you who contact me to put your event on the church calendar, I need you to choose an “Incident Commander.” This needs to be church member who knows where the defibrillator is, knows where the nearest fire pull and fire extinguisher are for your group, and call or delegate someone to call 911, if needed. Church members who have medical backgrounds are also helping with this process. I will be putting the Incident Commander’s name on the calendar. This process is new for all of us, and we will learn together what works to keep everyone safe and secure. The church staff have been trained, and more training will be scheduled by John with the Sunday School classes, Creative School, and others. I’m available for questions.

Fran Collins, Facilities Manager
Walnut Hill Youth presents their first

**St. Patrick’s Day Celebration**

1:30 am - 3:00 pm

Lots of fun for families to celebrate Saint Patrick’s Day! There will be face painting, crafts, storytelling, and all the green desserts you can imagine! We will be celebrating in the parking lot!

Questions? Contact Nautica at nwashington@whumc.com

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**Kids in Mission**

**Kids Against Hunger 2019**
Throughout this season of Lent, different Sunday School classes and the Wednesday night services will be using Amy-Jill Levine's "Entering the Passion of Jesus." Here's a quick synopsis:

"Jesus’ final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges."

**March 6 - Ash Wednesday**
8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Drive through ashes
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Service
Receive ashes as we begin the season of Lent

**March 13 - April 17 Wednesday Night Worship**
6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**April 14 - Palm Sunday**
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Begin the journey of the last week of Jesus’ life

**April 18 - Maundy Thursday**
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Worship with Holy Communion

**April 19 - Good Friday**
12 - 1:00 p.m.
A powerful remembrance of Jesus’ last moments

**April 21 - Easter Sunday**
6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Easter Worship
CELEBRATE the resurrection & find new life!
(Easter egg hunt for all children Noon-1:00 p.m.)

www.whumc.com
"Forever" by Chris Tomlin
Worship and Song 3023

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King; his love endures forever. For he is good, he is above all things; his love endures forever. Sing praise, sing praise!

With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, his love endures forever. For the life that's been reborn; his love endures forever. Sing praise, sing praise!

Sing praise, sing praise!

Forever God is faithful, forever God is strong. Forever God is with us, forever, forever!
March Communion Offering for Thomas Jefferson High School Homeless Education Drop-In Center

Your March communion offering will support the Homeless Education Drop-In Center at Thomas Jefferson High School. Did you know that Dallas ISD has about 4000 homeless students throughout the district? Some couch-surf with friends, others are on the streets and the fewest stay in shelters. The Homeless Education Program has established and maintains Drop-In Centers at several comprehensive high schools within the Dallas Independent School District in support of the district’s effort to increase the number of students who graduate from high school.

The Drop-In Center creates a welcoming and inviting atmosphere for our homeless education students prepared to provide shelf-stable food, backpacks, school supplies and hygiene items for homeless youth, needed to attend school regularly. In addition, the Drop-In Centers provide students with presentations from agencies to address college and college admission, new industries and career opportunities for students who graduate high school. Drop-In Centers also provide homeless families, children and youth with referrals to health, dental, mental health, housing, substance abuse and other appropriate services. For more information about the DISD Homeless Education Program, go to [https://www.dallasisd.org/Page/954](https://www.dallasisd.org/Page/954).

Your offering will enable the TJHS Drop-In Center coordinator to purchase needed items for the students served. You will directly impact the lives of students determined to graduate high school in challenging times.

PATTI R. MARTIN
TREASURER

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<tr>
<th>WHUMC Members</th>
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<th>NTC %</th>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>424</td>
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2019 Cash Flow

Month-to-Date Giving

Questions? Contact Patti Mondays through Wednesdays or through email at PATTI@WHUMC.COM
A Quick Overview
The results of General conference 2019 were surprising to many and have left the United Methodist Church in unchartered territory. This special called general conference 2019 was determined in 2016 because the discussion surrounding human sexuality under debate since 1972 had reached a standstill.

The 'one church' plan allowed local churches to make determinations of clergy officiating and churches hosting same sex couples and boards of ordained ministry determining whether to ordain self avowed, practicing homosexuals. This would change the language of the Book of Discipline, to be more inclusive recognizing different churches had different mission fields. Because this plan allowed us to stay united as a church and focused on the mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, this was the plan endorsed by the majority of bishops.

The 'traditional plan' strengthened the language regarding human sexuality in the Book of Discipline with more severe punishments for clergy who perform a marriage for same sex couples. It also says that a person who is self-avowed LGBTQ can not be ordained. The Traditional plan was petitioned with a variety of amendments to the original plan. Approximately 1/3 of the American delegates and the majority of the Central Conference delegates were in favor of the Traditional plan. The Central conference is comprised of all non US countries, including Africa where homosexuality is punishable by death. The Central conference delegates have over half of the votes of the General Conference delegation. Two thirds of United Methodist delegates in America are not in support of the traditional plan.

However, the African churches are growing stronger while the American churches are declining, meaning United States delegates have less than 50% of the majority needed to pass the one church plan recommended by the Bishops.

What is next?
For the general church, the Judicial council must review the traditional Plan to determine if it is constitutional. This meeting will take place on April 22-24, 2019. If the Traditional plan is ruled constitutional, it would require approval at general conference 2020 and any changes to the portion of the plan affecting particular parts of amendments might require a 2/3 majority vote by annual conferences. These changes would therefore not be effective until January 1, 2021.

What does this mean for our Walnut Hill UMC?
At this point we do not have any answers of what will happen next. Our mission is the same, to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. However, because of the news coverage we have received from this event, our witness of God's love for all people will become all the more important. None of the plans deny being welcoming and inclusive of all God's people no matter their sexual identity. However, if you believe that inclusivity blessing LGBTQ relationships and calls to ministry are a vital part of that welcome, now is the time to be more bold in your witness and more courageous in speaking for those who are feeling voiceless right now. I have always been so thankful to serve a church that is so diverse in the races, sexual identity, cultures, experiences and socio economic levels represented at Walnut Hill. Our diversity makes us stronger as we become a deeper reflection on God's creative spirit. Our role is to continue that mission and ensure we are doing all we can to embrace all every one of God's children so the church can counter any messages that we are not about love. So go forth and share your good news that all are

Alexandra
march

BIRTHDAYS

Doyle Stewart Jr. 03/01
Joyce Cochran 03/02
Tracy Chamblee 03/02
Donald Watson 03/03
Marie Spencer 03/03
Cathy Bauer 03/03
Norma McGraw 03/04
Joseph Bernard 03/04
Wilma Flud 03/05
Mark Jacobson 03/05
Bryan Ormsbee 03/05
Lee Mulos 03/06
Olivia Devalle 03/07
Audrey Villines 03/07
Lisa Norris 03/08
Samuel Asare 03/11
Ralph Williams 03/15
Nell Armstrong 03/15

John Ozmun 03/15
Hunter Alexander 03/16
Carolyn Cunningham 03/18
Dillon Sartor 03/18
Elisardo Tellez 03/20
Eleanor Anderson 03/21
Alleigh Carthey-Venable 03/21
Becki Ozmun 03/22
Bernard Daniel 03/22
Barbara Guckenheimer 03/23
Carolyn Allsup 03/26
Clay Saylor 03/26
Kara Villines 03/26
Kaitlynn Bernard 03/26
Lisa Faucheaux 03/28
TaNeza Taylor 03/29
Takeya Taylor 03/29

ANNIVERSARIES

Grif + Suzie Collie, 03/05
Ralph + Lee Williams, 03/05
Bill + Becky Maddox, 03/19
Patrick + Jena Kern, 03/20
Steve + Rita Holloway, 03/28
Mickey + Donna Collins, 03/30
## Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Pastor - Rev. Alex</td>
<td><a href="mailto:arobinson@whumc.com">arobinson@whumc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications + Youth - Nautica</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nwashington@whumc.com">nwashington@whumc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecting to the Church - Anna</td>
<td><a href="mailto:abundy@whumc.com">abundy@whumc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Coordinator - Heidi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hedwards@whumc.com">hedwards@whumc.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of Facilities - Fran</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fcollins@whumc.com">fcollins@whumc.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations + Finances - Patti</td>
<td><a href="mailto:patti@whumc.com">patti@whumc.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Records - Cathy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:membership@whumc.com">membership@whumc.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Choir + Music - Christine</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christinebouton@tx.rr.com">christinebouton@tx.rr.com</a></td>
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**February 2019 Calendar**

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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday*</td>
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<td>UNITE WORSHIP</td>
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<td>Lent Service</td>
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<td>Vintage Club</td>
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<td>Lent Service</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>All Church Workday!</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>UNITE WORSHIP</td>
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* *8:30am drive thru ashes 6:30pm service*
Want to Volunteer?  
**Brother Bill’s Helping Hand**

West Dallas is made up of 11 square miles in zip code area 75212. More than one out of every three families live below the federal poverty level. It is surrounded by the Trinity River to the north, Interstate 30 to the south, downtown Dallas and the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge to the east, and Loop 12 (Walton Walker Freeway) to the west. Most of the people in this neighborhood have lived their entire lives on the **discarded, damaged** products of our society. To help out at Brother Bill’s, contact Courtney Shwadlenak at CShwadlenak@bbhh.org.