



# TRAVIS PARK

TRAVIS PARK CHURCH

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travispark.org



## POST SPECIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE MESSAGE FROM REV ERIC VOGT

Like so many in our community, I am angry, hurting, and feeling uncertain about the future.

As you likely know, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church met in St. Louis, and yesterday passed by a narrow margin (54 votes out of 800+ global delegates) the Traditional Plan. Tragically, this plan reinforces The Book of Discipline's discriminatory language against LGBTQ members of the body of Christ, and makes stricter the prohibitions against same-sex marriage and ordination for gay clergy in the UMC.

I need to be clear about where I and the staff and leadership of our Church stand. The heart of God's good news and the calling of Travis Park and every church and every Christ follower is to proclaim and embody and share God's unconditional love. Now more than ever, we must cultivate a community that shares God's love with and through people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. With and through not only words but action. We must continue to celebrate a fully open table "where all are welcome, and love is always the answer to hate." We all miss out on God's gifts when a broken and divided church fails to recognize and encourage the gifts of LGBTQ people, and so anything less than full and equal inclusion hurts God, hurts us, and hurts our witness.

Many of you, like me, are asking, "what happens now?" We don't yet know all the ramifications and implementation of the new plan. But we know that we won't just passively accept what's handed down to us. General Conference doesn't represent our vision of the church and we believe it falls short of God's vision. So we are committed to pray fervently and honestly. We are committed to thoughtfully exploring next steps for our congregation. It may yet be that even through the pain, Travis Park has the opportunity to become something fresh and new.

It is tempting in our despairing moments to give up, to walk away. Who could blame you, especially the LGBTQ siblings in our church family? But now is the time that we need to come together. We need to hear each other's pain and care for each other. We need to be there for those who are hurting now and are in less supportive faith communities. We need to prayerfully study and seek out a faithful response for our church together. We need to renew that our commitment is first and foremost to Jesus and the people of our local church

community, not an institution or logo or brand. So please - I ask this especially of my LGBTQ siblings in Christ - please don't walk away just yet. We need you and your voice. Let's stay connected to one another and see where the Holy Spirit leads us.

We gather Sunday to remember that our God of love will go to any lengths, break down any walls, to invite us into abundant life together. I hope to see you - we need you there. We all need this reminder from God and each other: you are not alone. — Grateful to journey with you, *Pastor Eric*



## THE LENTEN SEASON BEGINS MARCH 6

This year, Lent begins on Wednesday, March

6. Between noon and 1 p.m. On that day, we have a come-and-go time on the Tower steps for prayer and the imposition of ashes. At 7 p.m. that evening, is our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

## BREAKING THE CHAINS: LENT AT HOME



Lent is a journey from captivity into freedom. From Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (not including Sundays, "mini Easters" anticipating the big day!), the 40 days of Lent are set aside to help us increase the freedom in our lives. To tell the truth about ourselves and our world, to change our hearts and our ways, and to participate in God's work of breaking chains of injustice, apathy, violence, despair—even the chains of death itself! Take home a packet and create a paper chain with your family. Set aside time in your day to break one link in the chain each day between Ash Wednesday and Easter and do the chain breaking work prompted by that link. For information, contact Erika Stiner, Children's Ministry Director at [estiner@travispark.org](mailto:estiner@travispark.org).

## USHERS & GREETERS WORKSHOP ON MARCH 10

**Hospitality** On Sunday, March 10, Rev. Gavin Rogers will conduct a workshop on *Greeting and Ushering* in room 218 at 11:15 a.m.

The workshop is for everyone...current ushers, new ushers, former ushers and anyone interested in hospitality. You do not have to make a commitment to serve yet. These are skills helpful for everyone, because hospitality is a duty and privilege for all of us. Participants will be trained in new ways to greet members and visitors at our doors on Sunday and to recruit new greeters.

Kathleen led an amazing Sunday School class this past fall on the book, *Making Room*. The workshop will take what was learned from that class and put it into practice by re-imagining how we greet and usher. The workshop will meet one time. For more information, contact Gavin, [gavin@travispark.org](mailto:gavin@travispark.org), or Kathleen Laborde, [Kathleen.laborde15@gmail.com](mailto:Kathleen.laborde15@gmail.com).

## INTRODUCING THE 2019 CHURCH COUNCIL



Our newly organized Church Council collectively performs the duties of what was formerly four separate committees (Finance, SPRC, Trustees and Church Council). The 12 members are Jennifer Middleton, Jerry Hardy, Brock Curry, Sonya Erb, Roy Paterson, Kathleen Laborde, Rachel Jennings, Bethany Hons, Susan Snow, Paula Stallcup, Velia Suarez, Campbell Mace-Meador, and Rev. Eric Vogt (representing the clergy).

## BROADWAY LIGHTS IS APRIL 13



Mark your calendar, Broadway Lights will be on Saturday April 13 at 6:30pm! This one night only Broadway review benefits the Emmaus Youth summer choir tour. This year we are headed to St. Louis! There will be performances by the Emmaus Singers, the Sanctuary Choir, Joyful Noise children's choir, congregation members, San Antonio music educators, and other community members. Tickets will be for sale starting in March and may be purchased in person and online. Please come and support our youth!

We will have a silent auction during Broadway Lights. If you have any items that you would like to donate to our silent auction, we would greatly appreciate it! We will accept items big and small, from tickets to sporting events and weekends away, to jewelry and gift baskets. Donated items can be given to Paula Stallcup or Caroline Collins. Thank you for supporting our Emmaus Singers!



### NEW STORY FESTIVAL IS MARCH 29-31

The New Story Festival returns to Austin March 29-31, at Huston-Tillotson University.

The event is a "...bold experiment for a better world, embodying imagination, spirituality, social action, and playful connection - defined above all by the practice of love."

Noted headliners at the festival include Nadia Bolz-Weber, Charles Eisenstein, Rev. Angel Kyodo Williams, Carrie Rodriguez, Kaitlin Curtice, Brian McLaren, Amparo Garcia-Crow, Riders Against the Storm, and the music group Over the Rhine.

The standard registration for a weekend pass is \$249 per person, but there are passes available as low as \$99. For tickets, visit this link: <https://www.newstoryfestival.com/festivaltickets>. For more information, contact Rev. Eric Vogt, [evogt@travispark.org](mailto:evogt@travispark.org).



### PUB THEOLOGY RETURNS MARCH 6

Pub Theology welcomes author Alexander John Shala on Wednesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. Pub Theology meets at San Antonio's Friendly Spot, 943 S. Alamo.



### WESLEYAN CHRISTIANITY 101: A LENTEN STUDY

What does it mean to be a part of the Wesleyan tradition? How did John and Charles Wesley influence a movement of people called Methodists? How is our church organized? What does it mean to be a Reconciling congregation? What do Methodists believe? If you would like to learn more about Methodism, its history, its essential tenants, and how we at Travis Park practice our faith, please join us for this four-week short term Lenten Study - March 24, 31, April 7 and 14. The room in which this class will meet is yet to be determined. Questions? Please email Pastor Valerie [vvogt@travispark.org](mailto:vvogt@travispark.org).



### 3RD ANNUAL LOVE & JUSTICE IN ACTION DINNER IS MAY 5

Save the date: May 16, 2019, and join us for the third annual Love and Justice in Action Dinner at the San Francisco Steakhouse.

This year, Corazón Ministries, Inc. celebrates 20 years of service to the homeless and marginalized people of San Antonio. Keynote speaker is Charlie Gonzalez, who represented Texas's 20th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1999 to 2013. Also, he served as Chairman of Latinos for Obama, and was the National Co-Chair of President Obama's 2012 re-election campaign. For information on tickets, contact Carol Gamble, [cmidirector@travispark.org](mailto:cmidirector@travispark.org).

### CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS

Throughout the winter season we will be using Illustrated Children's Ministry bulletins on Sunday mornings for anyone who is interested. These bulletins follow the lectionary, a list of Old and New Testament readings chosen to be read in church on a given Sunday, and provide ample space for creative and thoughtful contemplation on the theme each Sunday. You will find colored pencils in your pew racks, please return them to use next week. Pick up your children's bulletin with the traditional bulletin in the McNees Hall or Narthex.

### SANCTUARY CHOIR

If you are interested in being a part of the Sanctuary Choir, please join us for rehearsal on Sunday evenings. We meet from 6 to 7 p.m. on the second floor in the choir room. Contact Caroline at [caroline@travispark.org](mailto:caroline@travispark.org) for more information.

### EMMAUS YOUTH CHOIR

Emmaus sings monthly during worship and each summer we go on a week-long choir tour. We sing as well as play instruments such as the ukulele. (You must bring your own instrument). Emmaus (grades 6-12) rehearses from 5 to 6

p.m. on Sunday evenings on the second floor in the choir room. After Emmaus concludes, two TRUSTed adults walk with youth to youth group on the third floor. For information, contact Caroline at [caroline@travispark.org](mailto:caroline@travispark.org).

### JOYFUL NOISE! CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Come make a Joyful Noise! with the Children's Choir (K-5). Rehearsal is during part of the Sunday School hour. Two TRUSTed adults pick children up from the nursery to take them to the Children's Choir room on the second floor, room 206. Children are then taken back to nursery for pick-up at noon. For more information, contact Caroline at [caroline@travispark.org](mailto:caroline@travispark.org).

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Children** — Meets in Nursery on first floor. Stories and crafts. (Age 2 to 2nd grade) Contact Cydni, [cbravenec@travispark.org](mailto:cbravenec@travispark.org).

**Upper Elementary**—Room 307. Learn how to use your Bible. (grades 3-5) Led by Ms. Susan Snow, and Ms. Analisa Vitola. Utilizes various curriculum that use Bible stories, games, puzzles, and activities to grow in our spirituality and how we can develop a relationship with Jesus.

**Youth**—Room 315, 11:15 a.m. Energetic junior and senior high school kids exploring their faith, working on mission projects and snacking. Contact alex@travispark.org.

**Café Bible Study**—Room 220, 9 a.m. Questions and discussion using the Sunday lectionary (the pre-selected readings from the Bible for each specific Sunday in the Christian year)

**Seekers** — 11 a.m. This class has joined the short-term class, The Way Forward, that meets in the Labyrinth Room. For details contact Phil Watkins, [phil@philwatkins.com](mailto:phil@philwatkins.com).

**Sine Nomine**—Room 217, 11:15 a.m. The class continues discussion of the book, *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene: Discovering the Woman at the Heart of Christianity* by Cynthia Bourgeault. This Sunday we finish chapter 9 and begin chapter 10. Contact Alan Crowther, [apcrowther@hotmail.com](mailto:apcrowther@hotmail.com).

**Way Forward**—Labyrinth Room, 11:15am. For information email: [rachel.sigismund@yahoo.com](mailto:rachel.sigismund@yahoo.com).

### WEEK AT A GLANCE

#### SUNDAY, March 3

Café Corazón	8am	Fellowship Hall
Worship Service	9:45am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	11:15am	
Joyful Noise! rehearsal	11:35am	
Travis Park Ringers	5pm	2nd Floor
Sanctuary Choir	6pm	2nd Floor
Youth Gathering		

#### MONDAY, March 4

AA	12pm	Room 210
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#### TUESDAY, March 5

AA	12pm	Room 210
CMI Volunteer Meeting	5pm	Fellowship Hall

#### WEDNESDAY, March 6

##### Ash Wednesday/Start of Lent

AA	12pm	Room 210
Prayer, imposition of ashes	12pm	Tower steps
1 Parenting Class	3:30pm	Labyrinth Room
Dermatology Clinic	4pm	Fellowship Hall
Sponsorship Committee	5:30pm	Conference Room
Prayer Circle	6pm	Fellowship Hall
Ash Wednesday Service	7pm	Sanctuary
Pub Theology	7pm	The Friendly Spot

#### THURSDAY, March 7

Bible Study	11:45am	Fellowship Hall
AA	12pm	Room 210
Building Committee	6pm	Conference Room

#### FRIDAY, March 8

Bible Study	11:45 am	Fellowship Hall
AA	12pm	Room 210

#### SUNDAY, March 10

##### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME > Spring Forward

Café Corazón	8am	Fellowship Hall
Worship Service	9:45am	Sanctuary
Sunday School	11:15am	
Joyful Noise! rehearsal	11:35am	
MFSA/RMN Meeting	12:15pm	Conference Room
Emmaus Singers	5pm	2nd Floor
Travis Park Ringers	5pm	2nd Floor
Sanctuary Choir	6pm	2nd Floor
Youth Gathering	6pm	Room 315

### STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Eric Vogt, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Valerie Vogt, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Billie Watts, Associate Pastor (on renewal leave)  
Rev. Gavin Rogers, Associate Pastor  
Lana Potts, Director of Worship, Music & Arts  
Lou Caroline Collins, Choir Director  
Andrew Hubbard, Celebration Band & Singers Director

Erika Stiner, Director of Children's Ministry  
Alex Cato, Youth Minister  
Jennifer Middleton, Interim Director, Deborah's House  
Shirley Watkins, Membership  
Cydni Bravenec, Director of Operations  
Megan Paterson, Wedding & Event Coordinator  
Carol Gamble, Corazon Ministries Executive Director

Janette Grant, Receptionist  
Leonard Hartfield, Building Supervisor  
Ernest Moore, Maintenance  
Analisa Vitola, Children's Music  
John Chadwell, Kitchen Manager  
Paul Kirtley, Communications