

Christ at the Center
E-News



Central District

Central Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church

EVENTS & DUE DATES

Feb. 15 - Bank Authorization Forms Due

**Feb. 19 - District Leadership Team
Meeting**

Feb. 23-26 - General Conference

Mar. 7 - District Clergy Meeting

**Mar. 21 - DCOM Continuation Interviews
for LLP's**

**Apr. 11 - DCOM Continuation Interviews
for LLP's**

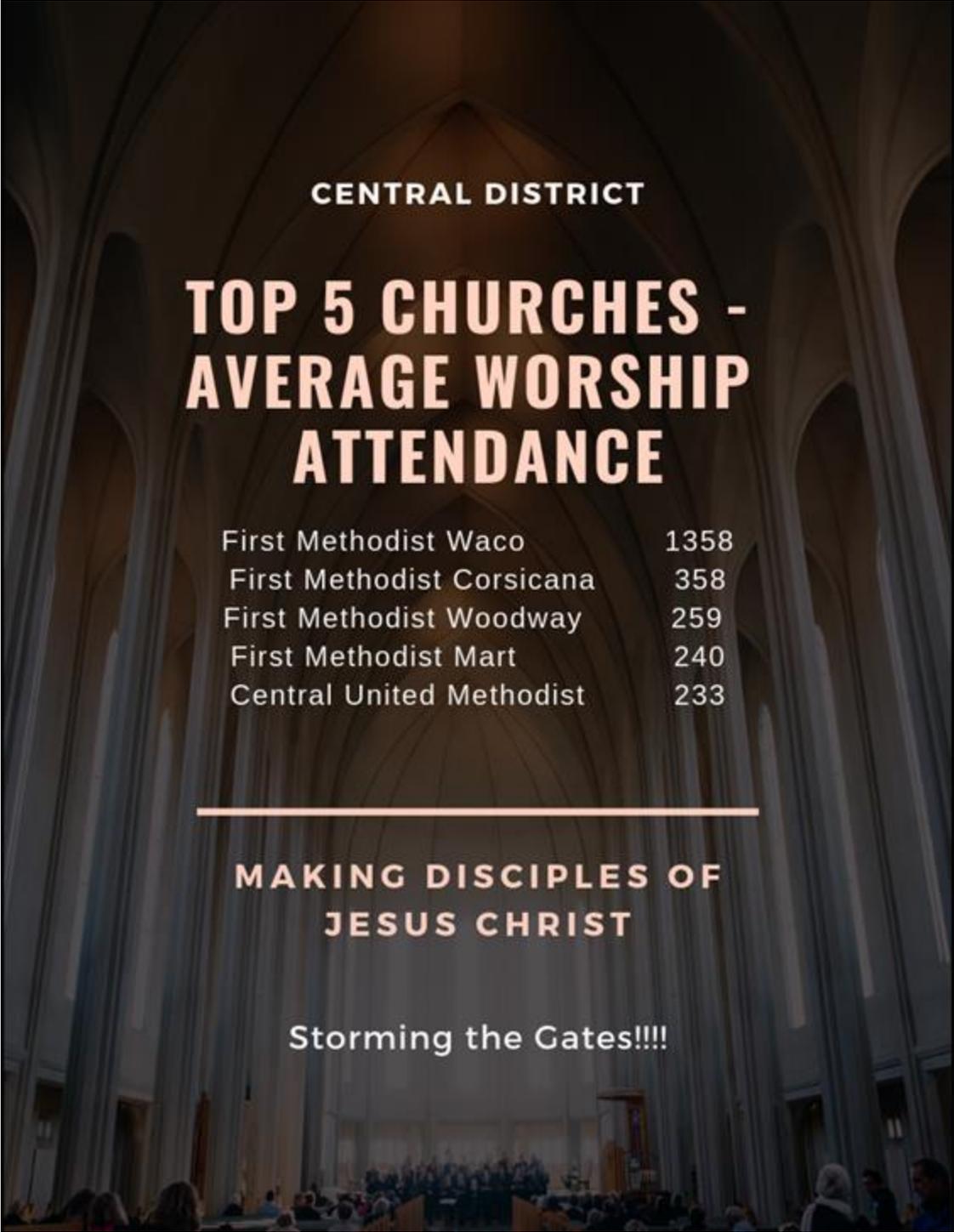


With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and by focusing on reaching new people and making disciples, the WIG is already bearing fruit. The Central Texas Conference has seen average weekly worship attendance and professions of faith – the primary metrics used to measure progress of the WIG - increase for 10 consecutive months. All indications suggest the growth trend will continue into months 11, 12 and beyond.

(photo above is courtesy of one of the CTC's New Faith Communities [The Jesus Table](#) - an

NFC of [Central United Methodist Church](#))

<https://www.ctcumc.org/story/12658774>



CENTRAL DISTRICT

**TOP 5 CHURCHES -
AVERAGE WORSHIP
ATTENDANCE**

First Methodist Waco	1358
First Methodist Corsicana	358
First Methodist Woodway	259
First Methodist Mart	240
Central United Methodist	233

**MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHRIST**

Storming the Gates!!!!

CENTRAL DISTRICT

***2018 TOP 5 CHURCHES -
PROFESSION'S OF FAITH***

FIRST METHODIST WACO	38
FIRST METHODIST MART	30
FIRST METHODIST WOODWAY	26
FROST UNITED METHODIST	20
CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST	17



**OFFERING CHRIST TO PEOPLE WE
ARE NOT ALREADY REACHING!!!**

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST AND STORMING THE GATES!!!

Center for
EVANGELISM, MISSION, & CHURCH GROWTH
transforming local congregations & creating new places for new people

1. A failure -- is not training ushers, greeters, and welcome people to be ready for guests and crowds on Easter. Put your welcome people outside and inside, especially in the parking lot and at entry points. A significant way to raise the level of those that will be greeting people is to consecrate them ahead of time in a worship serve and give them name tags.
2. A failure -- is not having the church join you in praying for the Easter Mission of reaching new people. In the services leading up to Easter add this type of prayer to worship involving everyone in reaching new people.
3. A failure -- is not sprucing up the area, enliven the area, or modernize the church campus, parking lot, and entry ways, etc. Look at the church campus from the eyes of guests of all ages, ethnic groups, economic groups, and churched and unchurched people.
4. A failure -- is not making the bulletin guest friendly, welcoming, easy to navigate, and professional. Most bulletins are aimed at our members and the usual church activities and often there is an order of worship that is confusing and full of insider information. How might an unchurched person connect in the worship experience and church activities? Write a specific welcome for the guest.
5. A failure -- is not preparing a sermon that celebrates Easter, the resurrection, transforms people, and speaks to guests as well as members. Easter is about *THE Good News*. People want to celebrate Easter but remember they come for many reasons. A short, clear, compelling message is critical.
6. A failure -- is in ignoring children by not addressing their presence somehow; provide for them, and help their parents feel comfortable and that their children are very welcome. How will a guest understand an opportunity for their children? The nursery and children's areas must be clean, secure, inviting, and if possible fantabulous. They won't come back if it's not.
7. A failure -- is not planning for and offering next steps in discipleship for guests and existing members where they can respond to the experience of Easter. Where is the entry point for a guest to go deeper or get involved more and where is the next step for the long-term attender?
8. A failure -- is not marketing Easter at your church to the community by using social media and providing tools for your members to invite their neighbors and friends to Easter worship. Communicate it as a community Easter service where everyone is invited and will feel welcome. Make the community the center of the Easter design.
9. A failure -- is not having adequate signage. Put welcome and directional signs in the parking lot, entry points, hallways, and all transitional areas. People should know you have prepared for them, want them and that Easter and its resurrection message is a big deal and that you love them.
10. A failure -- is not providing Online worship; if you don't have another platform, try Facebook live. Invite the community and members who can't attend in person ahead of time to join you. In the service recognize those worshipping with you online, encourage people to respond by registering or in the comment section that they are worshipping with you. Have a live person monitoring the live feed, so they can respond in real time to each attender.

11. A failure -- is not offering easy ways for everyone to register, but especially guests to register their attendance, and a greater failure is a failure to respond to those that do register with a non-threatening follow-up which includes an appreciation for them attending and an invitation to return.
12. A failure -- is not preparing a message series that immediately follows Easter that appeals to the needs and concerns of the unchurched and guests. Communicating that next step in an appealing way on Easter in the bulletin, banners, signage, video, pulpit invitation, or even a piece of the sermon itself.

*Rev. Mike Ramsdell, Executive Director
Center for Evangelism, Missions, & Church Growth*



MARCH 7, 2019

DISTRICT CLERGY MEETING

AUSTIN AVENUE UMC

9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

9:30 - Gathering

9:45-10:45 - Ben Simpson will lead on how
to keep Christ at the Center in the midst of
the storm

11:00-12:00 - New Faith Community
Panel/How to get a grant





Early Response Training Opportunities:

Saturday, March 2, 2019 9am-5pm
Joshua First United Methodist Church
111 Paula St.
Joshua, TX. 76508
Instructor: Donnie Sherwood
Class Fee \$30
Registration closes February 26

Recertification/Advanced Training
Opportunity:
Saturday, March 2, 2019 9am-1pm
Joshua First United Methodist Church
111 Paula St.
Joshua, TX. 76508
Instructor: Susan Luttrell
Class Fee: \$20
Registration closes February 26



[Register for 3/2/19](#)

[Enroll for Recertification/Advanced Training](#)

ERT/ADVANCED TRAINING CLASS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT

Early Response Training

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

Recertification/Advanced Training

Saturday, February 16, 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

[Youth Ministry Information from Conference](#)

Individual Registration is now open for Mid-Winter 2019: “Despite the Fear.” Our Conference’s annual youth Winter retreat will feature small group studies, worship, games and fellowship at Glen Lake Camp. Choose from two weekend sessions, Feb. 1-3 and Feb. 15-17. Visit ctcumc.org/midwinter2019 to read more about Mid-Winter, or to register groups and/or individuals.



Contact the district office if your church is interested in this initiative!

For more information: <http://www.ctcumc.org/grow>





SCOREBOARD

CENTRAL TEXAS CONFERENCE DISTRICTS



2,171/2,251 ← 2018 GOAL



2,171/3,500 ← 2026 WIG GOAL

CONFERENCE SCOREBOARD

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	ACHIEVED/SET GOAL
CENTRAL	117%				293 / 250
EAST	97%				776 / 796
NEW CHURCH STARTS	101%				81 / 80
NORTH	75%				467 / 625
SOUTH	104%				414 / 400
WEST	140%				140 / 100

PROFESSIONS OF FAITH DECEMBER 2018 (YTD)

LEGEND

- less than 10% of YTD target
- within 10% of YTD target
- on or exceeding YTD target

Data Source: VitalSigns Dashboard



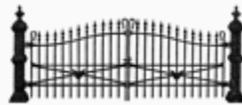
Wake Up!

How about something different for Ash Wednesday this year? Open it with *Wake-Up*

Call, a One Man Show monologue featuring John the Baptist as a contemporary backwoodsman. Rev. Jeffrey Miller of FUMC Belton wrote, “A wake-up call is what we got at our Ash Wednesday service! During the scripture reading, Mark marched in thundering a message of repentance. He urged our people to truly change and not just walk around with dirty foreheads, making ‘ashes’ out of themselves. *Wake-Up Call* is an inspiring message –highly recommended.”

Host churches receive a preparation packet, complete with promotional materials. Mark can come for mileage reimbursement and a love offering with no minimum required. Contact One Man Show at 817-454-1129 or send an email to info@onemanshow.org.

Energizing and equipping local churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



“STORM THE GATES”

Matthew 16:18

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